



An attempt to reconcile the current Archaeological evidence
and current Genealogical DNA evidence
with Ireland's mythical origins

By

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Introduction

I found a map of Ireland and Britain on-line that was a modern interpretation of the tribes of Ireland as they were in 150 AD, based on the work of Claudius Ptolemy.

Claudius Ptolemy of Alexandria (c. 100 – c. 170 AD) was a mathematician, astronomer, astrologer, geographer, and music theorist, who wrote about a dozen scientific treatises, three of which were of importance to later Byzantine, Islamic, and Western European science. One of which is known as the ‘**Geography**’, which is a thorough discussion on maps and the geographic knowledge of the Greco-Roman world. Part of it concerned Britain and Ireland.

Ptolemy’s map of Ireland is the earliest map of Ireland known to exist. Surviving versions of maps of Ptolemy’s Ireland were not produced by Ptolemy himself but are later interpretations by other cartographers from the information contained in Ptolemy’s *Geography*.

Many of the various versions of the map I found on-line differed from each other, so I had a go producing one myself. When I finished, I was struck by the similarity of the distribution of the tribes on the map to one produced by LivingDNA showing the breakdown of distinct DNA clusters in Ireland. Which got me thinking that maybe Ireland’s DNA imprint may be very ancient and quite stable in spite of the various inter-tribal wars and invasions over the last 2000 years.

This in turn led me to Professor T. F. O’Rahilly and his book, **Early Irish History and Mythology**, published in 1946. In it O’Rahilly proposed a historical model of Irish prehistory based on his study of the influences on the Irish language and a critical analysis of Irish mythology.

O’Rahilly’s historical model is not the generally the accepted model. Irish archaeologists have fairly consistently failed to support the theory, as archaeological evidence of these waves of settlement is lacking. But the Annals on which he based his work are still the basis of much of our accepted history until the Norman invasions.

I felt that the underlying rationale behind O’Rahilly’s historical model, that clues to Ireland’s past might be buried in its mythology, was a valid one. So, I decided to try and reconcile the current archaeological evidence and the current Genealogical DNA evidence with T. F. O’Rahilly’s theories to produce a new composite historical model.

For a more up to date summary of Celtic history I used: *The Celts: A History* (2011) – by Dáithí Ó hÓgáin, Professor of Irish folklore at University College Dublin.

I could not find any breakdown of LivingDNA’s clusters on the Internet. This is probably not surprising as LivingDNA is a commercial company that does DNA testing and analysis, but it was still a bit disappointing.

After much searching, I found a PDF by **Brad Larkin, DNA Clans and Monarchy**, from 2018, this gave me a starting place with outlines of the Haplogroups for the major Irish Clans. I would probably be unable to do this project without this PDF; any misinterpretation of his analysis is my own. When I Googled the individual Haplogroups looking for more up to date information, I came across the various FamilyTreeDNA Group Projects and their public Y-DNA charts. Using these projects, I was able to add some more recent data to Brad Larkin’s original Haplogroups.

This is the result of my investigation. It is, by its very nature, speculative, but I have tried as much as possible to make it informed speculation.

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Ptolemy's Map of Ireland

Ptolemy's Map of Ireland

When I started to look into Ptolemy's map, I discovered that many different variations that had been produced over the years as people differed on where Ptolemy's Capes, Estuaries and Settlements were actually situated.

So, I decided to make an attempt of producing my own version of Ptolemy's Map of Ireland.

Interpreting Ptolemy's map is complicated by the fact that we do not have the original. Over the centuries, various hands have amended, translated, and copied copies yielding what is available today.

I used four main sources of information:

- Goddard Orpen's Ptolemy's map of Ireland (1894)
- Thomas F. O'Rahilly's Early Irish history and mythology (1946)
- Ptolemy's Tribes of Ireland (revised) by Martin Counihan (2019)
- Ptolemy's map of Ireland: a modern decoding - By Robert Darcy & William Flynn; Department of Political Science, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, USA (2008)

I kept the Promontories (Headlands), Estuaries, Tribes and Settlements in the same sequence that Ptolemy used.

Ptolemy is said to have based his map of Ireland on the (lost) writings of Pytheas of Massalia, a Greek explorer who is believed to have visited Ireland and Britain around 325 BCE. T. F. O'Rahilly asserted as proof of this that:

.. The most striking feature of Ptolemy's account of Ireland is its antiquity. The Ireland it describes is an Ireland dominated by the Érainn, and on which neither the Laiginian invaders nor the Goidels have as yet set foot. (p. 17). (O'Rahilly 39-40)

Now this is demonstratively untrue, the Goidels would not be there because they did not come to Ireland until after Ptolemy's time, but the Laigin are all there. Ptolemy might have used Pytheas of Massalia as the basis of his work, but he would have also used traveller, merchant and military reports of distances and directions collected by previous geographers to build on it. The Romans were well established in Britain by the time Ptolemy wrote his Geography and the greater level of detail for the South and East coasts of Ireland reflect this. For example, all the islands he mentioned are on the east coast, including some of the Hebrides in Scotland, but not one of the islands on the west coast are mentioned, not even major ones like Achill Island or the Aran islands.

So, I have tried to look Ireland's coast as it would look to Sailors and Merchants.

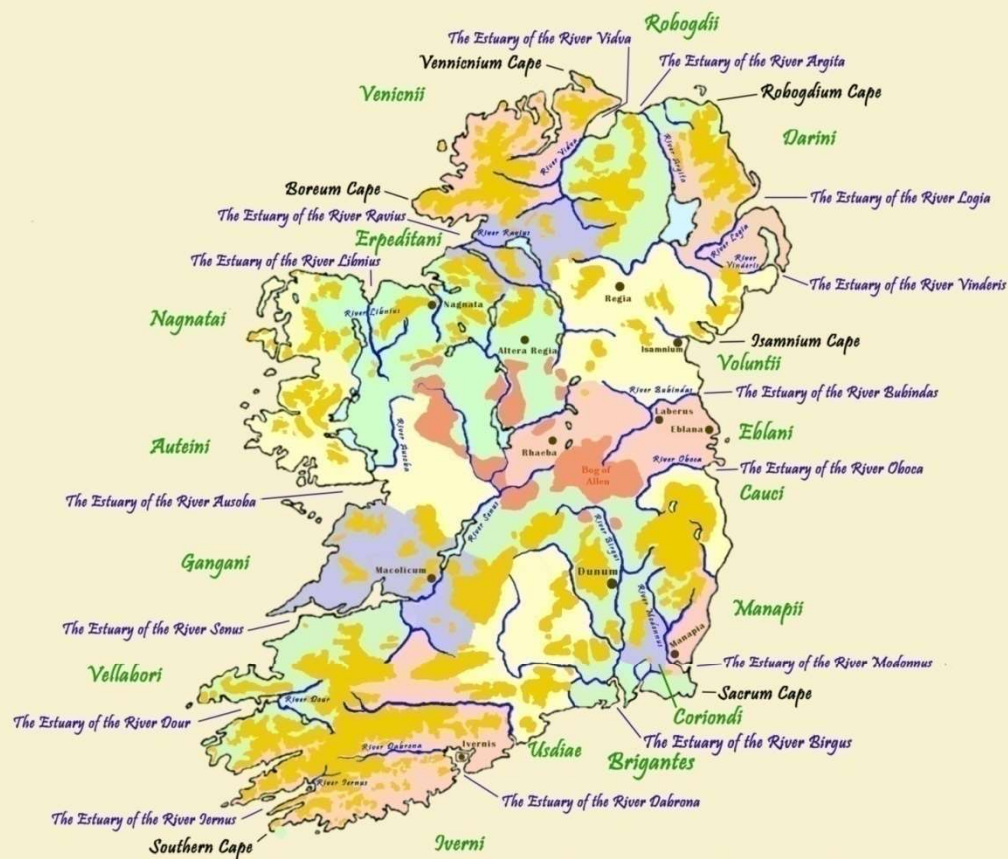
- The headlands would be navigational aids, furthest west, furthest north, etc.
- It is not rivers themselves that are important; it's the inlets and harbours that are important.

The River Blackwater in Munster seems to be the only major river not on Ptolemy's list. This is probably because it is not navigable upstream due to the flow of the river, making it less suitable as a settlement hub for a tribe. Think of the rivers as the transport highways of Ireland, roads being very rare in those times. It must be kept in mind as well that in Ptolemy's time Ireland was still very heavily forested.

The tribes mentioned by Ptolemy are all coastal tribes, no inland tribes are mentioned. In addition, the strength of the tribe and the geographical extent of their territory are not mentioned, just the sequence in which they occur. So, my placement of the tribes is influenced by natural inlets and harbours and the extent of their territories by natural boundaries of rivers, bogs and mountains.

Ptolemy's Map of Ireland

Ptolemy's map of Hibernia Circa 140 A.D

[illegible]

Promontories:

Boreum Cape	Rossan Point Co. Donegal
Vennicium Cape	Malin Head, Co. Donegal
Rhobogdium Cape	Fair Head (Benmore Co. Antrim)
Southern Cape	Mizen Head (Cork)
Sacrum Cape	Carnsore Point (Nethertown)
Isammium Cape	Cooley Peninsula (Co. Louth)

The Estuary of the Rivers:

River Vidva	Lough Foyle (River Foyle)
River Argita	River Bann (Coleraine, Co. Derry)
River Ravius	Donegal Bay (River Erne))
River Libnius	Killala Bay (River Moy)
River Ausoba	Galway Bay (River Corrib)
River Senus	The Shannon Estuary (River Shannon)
River Dour	Dingle Bay (River Maíne or River Luane)
River Iernus	Bantry Bay (River Owneane)
River Dabrona	Cork Harbour (River Lee)
River Birkus	Waterford Harbour (River Barrow)
River Modonnus	Wexford Harbour (River Slaney)
River Oboca	Dublin Bay (River Liffey)
River Bubindas	River Boyne (Drogheda, Co.Louth)
River Vinderis	Strangford Lough (River Quoile)
River Logia	Belfast Lough (River Lagan)

Settlements/Trading Posts:

Nagnata	Near Sligo, Co. Sligo
Ivernís	Ard Nemid (Great Island , Cork city), Co. Cork
Manapia	Near Wexford town, Co. Wexford
Eblana	Loughshinny Co. Dublin
Isamniun	Dún Dealgan Motte (Cú Chulainn's Castle) (Dundalk, Co. Louth)
Regia	Embain Macha (Navan Fort, Armagh)
Rhaeba	Hill of Uisneach, Rathconrath, Westmeath
Laberus	Hill of Tara, Co. Meath
Macolicum	Brian Boru's Fort (Béal Bóramha). (near Killoale, Co. Clare)
Altera Regia	Rathcroghan (near Tulsk, Roscommon)
Dunum	Dinn Rígh (Leighlinbridge, Carlow)

Tribes:

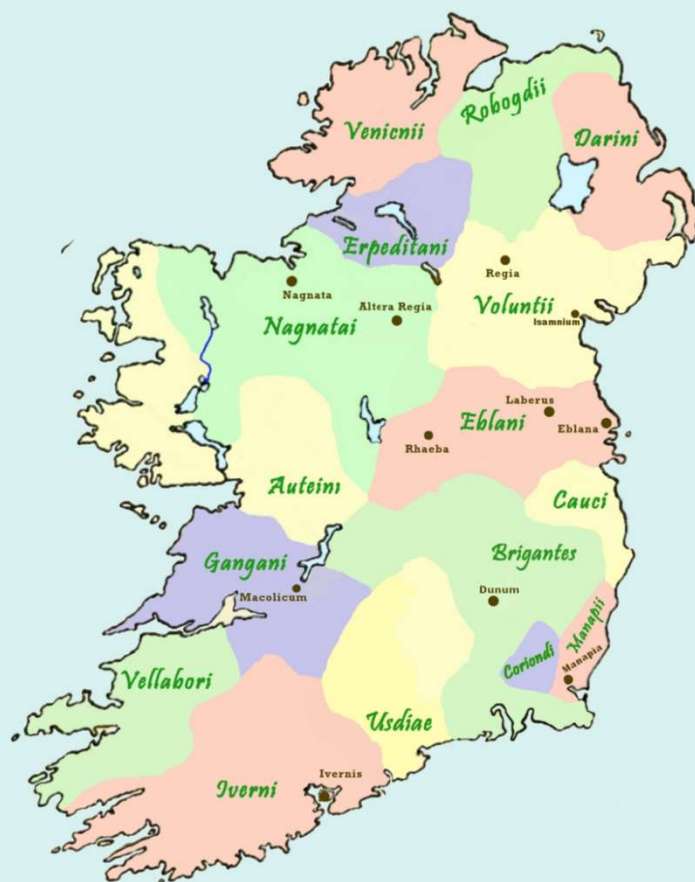
The South Coast:	Iverni, Usdiae, Brigantes
The East Coast:	Coriondi, Manapii, Cauci, Eblani, Voluntii, Darini
The North Coast:	Robogdii,
The West Coast:	Venicii, Erpeditani, Nagnatai, Auteini, Gangani, Vellabori

The positioning of Tribes on the coast are defined by Ptolemy's Geography (Geography of Claudius Ptolemy - Book II, Chapter 2)

The internal borders are my best guess based on natural boundaries; Rivers, Lakes, Mountains and Bogs and recent Irish DNA research

Ptolemy's Map of Ireland

Ptolemy's map of Hibernia
Circa 140 A.D



Living DNA Irish Genetic Clusters



A Brief Note on DNA

A Brief Note on DNA

There are three major types of genealogical DNA tests:

- **Autosomal** DNA tests look at chromosome pairs 1–22 and the X part of the 23rd chromosome. The autosomes are inherited from both parents and all recent ancestors. So, it allows you to find people who share DNA with you and shows how closely you are related.

This is the type of test done by the likes of Ancestry and MyHeritage. Ethnicity estimates are often included with this sort of testing.

The 23rd chromosome follows a special inheritance pattern, because females (XX) inherit an X-chromosome from each of their parents, while males (XY) inherit an X-chromosome from their mother and a Y-chromosome from their father (XY).

- **Y-DNA** looks at the Y-chromosome, which is passed down from father to son. Thus, the Y-DNA test can only be taken by males to explore their direct paternal line.
- **mtDNA** looks at the mitochondria, which is passed down from mother to child. Thus, the mtDNA test can be taken by both males and females, and it explores one's direct maternal line.

A **Gene** is the basic unit of heredity. It is estimated that every person has between 20,000 and 25,000 different Genes in the human genome.

- A **Haplotype** is a group of variants of any given gene that are inherited together from a single parent.
- A **Haplogroup** is a group of similar haplotypes are closely linked and that tend to be inherited together, i.e. that share a common ancestor
- Many people within a haplogroup share similar numbers of short tandem repeats (STRs) and types of mutations called **single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)**.

The Geno 2.0 test,

In late 2012, the way Haplogroups were being named and referenced began changing.

The Genographic project introduced a test. **The Geno 2.0 test**, in July 2012. Before this test there were approximately **850 SNPs** identified on the haplotree, meaning 850 haplogroup names that all began with the letter of the haplogroup. As new haplogroup branches were discovered alternating numbers and letters that were added. For example, after haplogroup R was discovered, another haplogroup under it, **R1** was discovered, then a third, **R1b** under that and so on and so forth.

However, the Geno 2.0 Test increased to a total of over **12,000 Y-DNA SNPs**. So, the naming convention had to change, but lots of academic papers already in existence used the old naming convention.

A Brief Note on DNA

The New Haplogroup Naming Convention

The most common haplogroup in Europe is **R1b1a2**

Every haplogroup, such as **R1b1a2a1a2a**, is defined by a specific SNP, in this case, **DF27**. This SNP and haplogroup name have a specific location on the haplotree. The SNP locations can change without a problem, but the names of the Haplogroups that need to change are the problem.

This has already led to different trees maintained by different organizations being out of sync with each other.

Under the new naming convention Haplogroup **R1b1a2a1a2a** became **R1b-DF27**, also written as **R-DF27**, or just **DF27**.

In addition, some **Haplogroups** can have different names because they were named by different researchers, but it was then discovered that they represented the same haplogroup. This has only happened in a minority of cases, but just be aware of it. The reason I used **DF27** in the above example is that it is one of cases. It is also known as **S250**. As you may well imagine, all of the above can cause confusion when researching Haplogroups.

A **Subclade** is a subgroup of a haplogroup. So, a subclade contains all the genetic changes that occurred after a given Haplogroup. So, Haplogroup **P312** is a subclade of Haplogroup **R-M343** and Haplogroup **Z290** is a subclade of Haplogroup **P312**.

- In order this would be **R-M343 > P312 > Z290**
- And for **ZZ11** it would be **R-M343 > P312 > ZZ11**

So, you can see the different branches of DNA as they branch off into different subclades.

Y-DNA and **mtDNA** cannot be used for ethnicity estimates because they represent such a small part of human DNA, but Y-DNA Haplogroups are very useful in tracking population movements and splits.

This is because the Y chromosome mutates faster than the mitochondrial DNA and can be used to create countless branches of a Y-DNA tree down to the most specific details, and historically there were more dramatic changes, replacements and displacements in the Y-DNA Haplogroups (male population) than in the mtDNA Haplogroups, which tend to be more evenly distributed.

European Y-DNA Breakdown

Y-DNA vs. Culture

Y-DNA Haplogroups can be used to trace where people come from. Particular Haplogroups are associated with well-known ancestral groups such as the Vikings, Aboriginal Australians, and the Celts. For example, the **R-DF27** subgroup corresponds closely to the various pre-Roman kingdoms formed by the Celtiberians. I have used phrases like ‘**associated with**’ and ‘**corresponds closely to**’, because terms like Celtic, Germanic or Norse belong to cultures and not to individual Haplogroups.

Using R1b-P312 as an example:

I have found **R1b-P312** labelled as Celtic on many charts. However, Britain's DNA Project labelled this branch as ‘Beaker Folk and formerly Bell Beaker’. In reality, it is neither.

R1b-P312 appeared about 2,800 BC whereas Celtic Culture only appeared about 1,200 BC. The Bell Beaker culture is earlier, from about 2,900 BC, but archaeological DNA evidence seems to indicate that most of the Bell Beaker migrants to Ireland and Britain belonged to **I2a** associated Haplogroups.

The best description is probably that **R1b-P312** is ‘**mainly associated with Celtic tribes**’ but be aware that this only accounts for roughly **80%** of **R1b-P312**. The other **20%** is associated with Norse and Germanic tribes. The main subclades for these are **R1b-P312-L238** (Norse) and **R1b-P312-D19** (Germanic), but other rarer subclades also exist.

The cultures that **R1b-P312** tribes adopted depended on some degree on the cultures that preceded them in the area’s they migrated to and which they absorbed into their own. The area was Celtic culture dominated was previously Western Bell-Beaker Culture (2,900-1,800 BC), the area Germanic Culture dominated was previously Unetice Culture (2,300-1,600 BC)

When the Celts did eventually migrate to Britain and Ireland, the existing **I2a** Bell-Beakers already there adopted the Celtic Culture. I would also expect that the Celtic tribes already had some **I2a** elements in them from the earlier absorption of Bell-Beakers on the continent.

In the end I labelled **R1b-P312** as ‘**Proto-Celtic**’ on my Y-DNA Genetic Tree, using Proto as used in Prototype, meaning “earliest form of” to indicate they eventually became Celtic (mostly).

Other Examples:

R1b-U106 is often labelled Anglo-Saxon, but probably accounts for only 50% of the Germanic tribes involved in the ‘Anglo-Saxon’ invasion of Britain. It would also have included people with **R1b-P312-D19**, **R1a** and **I1a** haplogroups plus some smaller, rarer **R1b** subclades.

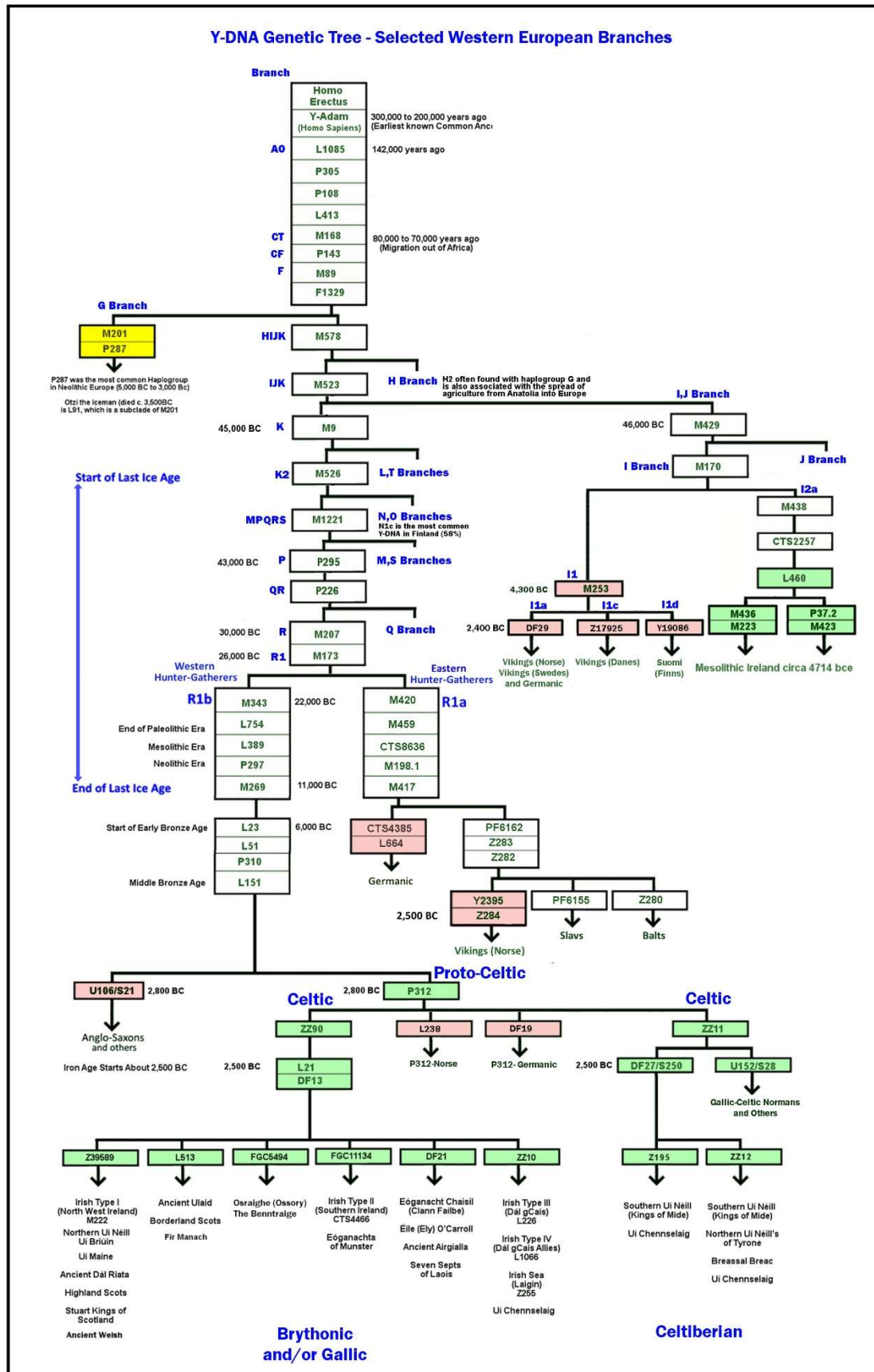
The Norse, even from earliest times was always a mix of different Haplogroups, the 3 main ones in order being **I-M253**, **R1a-M512** and **R1b-M269**. The **R1b** Haplogroups accounts for about 25% of the total Y-DNA and is split between two main subclades, **R1b-P312** and **R1b-U106**.

Conclusion:

The matching of Haplogroups to specific cultures is broadly correct, with emphasis on the broadly. It does become more exact when you breakdown the larger groups, e.g. the Celts, into smaller groupings like Celtiberians (**R-DF27**) or Insular Celts (**R-L21**). But it is never the whole story, and you have to be aware of this. From a practical point of view having no short descriptions at all would make Y-DNA charts meaningless to the average layman and writing longer, more nuanced labels against every element on a charts or map would just make then too unwieldy and difficult to read.

Some cultures will be impossible to link to specific Haplogroups. The Normans, for example, were not just the Norse who settled in France. They were a truly European mix of Norse, Gallic-Celts and Franks (Germanics). The Norman family the de Burgh’s (Burkes) who became the Earls of Ulster were actually **R1b-DF27**, so while Normans; they were not of Norse descent.

European Y-DNA Breakdown



European Y-DNA Breakdown

European Y-DNA Breakdown

I Haplogroup

Haplogroup I is the oldest major haplogroup in Europe and in all probability the only one that originated there. Haplogroup IJ (which preceded it) would have arrived from the Middle East to Europe some 35,000 years ago, then developed into haplogroup I soon afterwards.

It has now been confirmed by ancient DNA test that the first Homo sapiens to colonize Europe during the Upper Palaeolithic period (45,000 to 28,000 years ago) belonged to haplogroup I.

The I Haplogroup split into two major strands I1a and I2a.

I2a- M438

This Haplogroup is thought to have originated around 26,000 BC during the Late Palaeolithic, around the time of the Last Ice Age, which lasted approximately from 26,500 to 19,000 years ago.

It probably appeared in Western Europe, although its exact region of origin cannot be determined since Palaeolithic Europeans were nomadic hunter-gatherers. The oldest I2 sample recovered from archaeological skeletons is a 13,500-year-old man from the Grotte du Bichon in Switzerland.

I1a-M253

It is estimated that the I1a branch split from the rest of haplogroup I about 4,300 BC. It is not yet clear in which part of Europe I1 originated. It has been speculated that I1a may evolved in isolation in Scandinavia during the late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, when hunter-gatherers from southern Europe recolonised the northern half of the continent after the Ice Age.

Of the two Branches, Haplogroup I2a is the more widespread and covered southern and western Europe. It is this branch that initially populated Ireland and Britain.

Today, Haplogroup I2 is still the most common paternal lineage in the Balkans, Romania, Bulgaria and a major lineage in most Slavic countries. Its maximum frequencies are observed in Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro (31% to 55%). Curiously it is also dominant in Sardinia where it has a frequency of 39.5%

Haplogroup I1 It is found mostly in Scandinavia and Finland, where it typically represents over 35% of the Y chromosomes. Associated with the Norse ethnicity, I1 is found in all places invaded by ancient Germanic tribes and the Vikings.

G Haplogroup

The ancient **G-M201** Haplogroup has been identified in Neolithic human remains in Europe dating between 5,000 and 3,000 BC. They are descendants of Neolithic farmers from Anatolia, among some of the earliest peoples in the world to practice agriculture.

G-M201 has also been found in Neolithic Anatolian sites dating back as far as 8,300 to 7,600 BCE.

When they arrived in Europe, they introduced Agriculture to the existing Haplogroup I Hunter-gatherers.

European Y-DNA Breakdown

H2 Haplogroup

The earliest sample of H2 is found in the Levant (the Mediterranean coastline of the Middle East) 10,000 years ago. H2 often found with haplogroup G and is also associated with the spread of agriculture from Anatolia into Europe. H2 was found in Neolithic Anatolia, as well as in multiple later Neolithic cultures of Europe, such as the Megalith culture of Western Europe.

In 2020, the Y-DNA sequence of 44 individuals from Irish passage grave burials ranging in age from 4,793 BC to 2,910 BC was done by Trinity College. All of the men are members of haplogroup I, except two who were Y-DNA haplogroup H2.

The last Ice Age began about 100,000 years ago and lasted until 25,000 years ago. Hunter-Gathers with Haplogroup I was the first peoples to spread into northern Europe after the end of the Ice-Age. They were joined by the Neolithic farmers of Haplogroup G and H about 5,000 BC.

However, it was the arrival of Haplogroup R into Europe that fundamentally changed the Genetic makeup of the continent.

R1a Haplogroup

The R1a Haplogroup is thought to have occurred about **21,000 years ago in southern Russia on the Eurasian Steppes**. R1a is the dominant haplogroup among the northern and eastern Proto-Indo-European tribes, who later evolved into the Indo-Iranian, Thracian, Baltic and Slavic peoples.

The R1a push into central Europe is the major reason the Scandinavian I Haplogroup was isolated from the rest of the I Haplogroup and facilitated the haplogroup split into strands I1a and I2a. Their dramatic expansion was possible thanks to an early adoption of bronze weapons and the domestication of the horse.

Nowadays, high frequencies of R1a are found in Poland (57.5% of the population), Ukraine (40% to 65%), European Russia (45% to 65%), Belarus (51%), Slovakia (42%), Latvia (40%) and Lithuania (38%)

With smaller amounts in the Czech Republic (34%), Hungary (32%), Norway (27%), Austria (26%), Croatia (24%), north-east Germany (24%) Sweden (19%) and Romania (18%).

European Y-DNA Breakdown

European R1b Haplogroup

The oldest forms of R1b are found dispersed at very low frequencies from Western Europe to India, a vast region where could have roamed the nomadic R1b hunter-gatherers during the Ice Age. R1b people (perhaps alongside neighbouring J2 tribes) were the first to domesticate cattle in northern Mesopotamia some 10,500 years ago. The increased involvement of humans in the life of aurochs, wild boars and goats led to their progressive taming. Cattle herders probably maintained a nomadic or semi-nomadic existence.

The three main branches of R1b (R1b-P297, R1b-M335, R1b-V88) all seem to have stemmed from the Middle East.

R1b-M335 has only been found in Anatolia and the southern branch, R1b-V88 is found mostly in the Levant and Africa.

The northern branch, R1b-P297, seems to have originated around the Caucasus, eastern Anatolia or northern Mesopotamia, then to have crossed over the Caucasus, from where they would have migrated to Europe and Central Asia.

It is this northern branch that we are concerned with. They crossed the Caucasus into the vast Pontic-Caspian Steppe, which provided ideal grazing grounds for cattle.

R1b-M269

Around 11,000 BC, R1b-M269 evolved out of R1b-P297.

R1b-M269 is the most common R1b Haplogroup in Europe. An estimated 110 million males in Europe carry this gene.

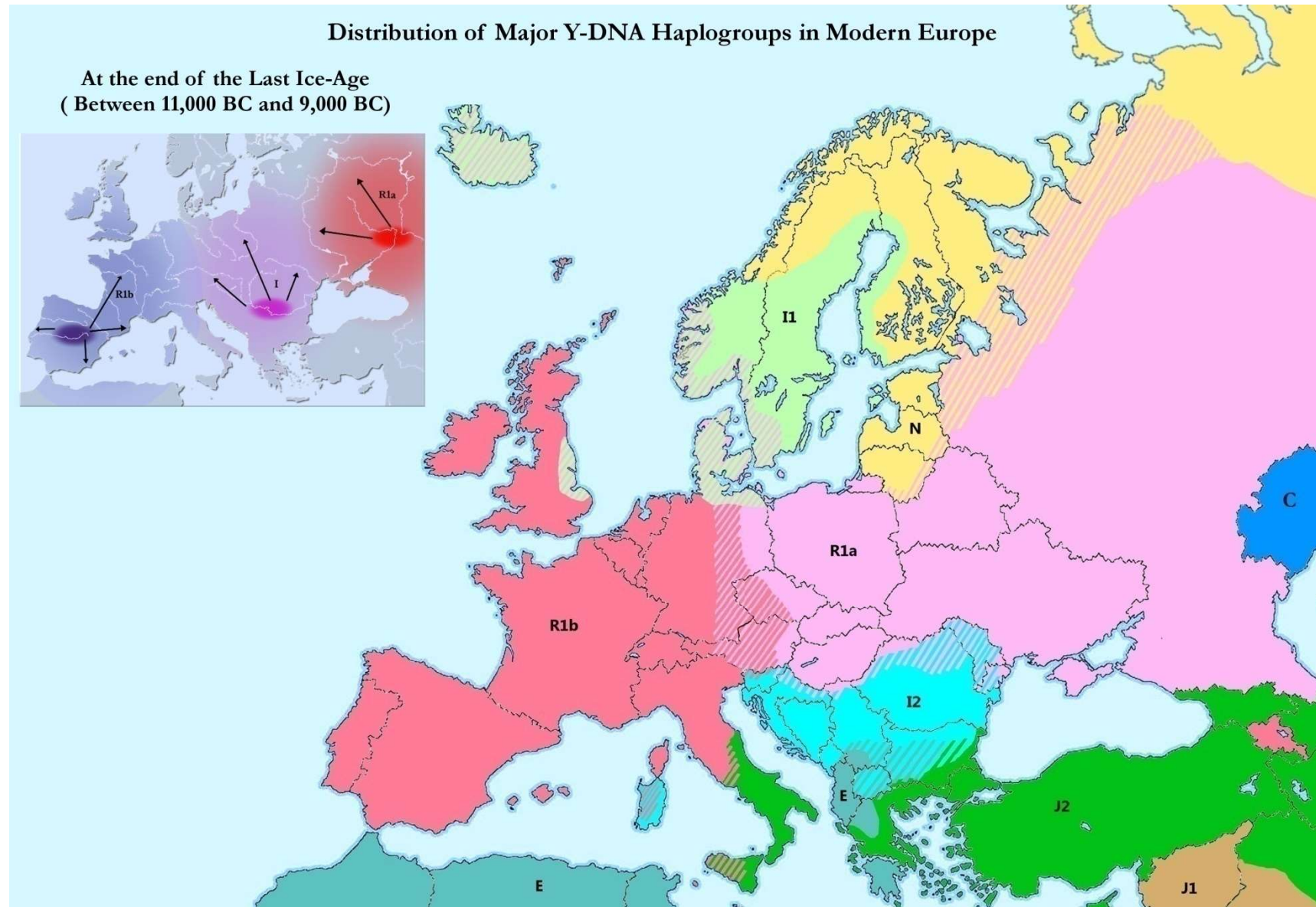
At first, they remained in the North Caucasus and the area between the Dnieper and the Volga rivers. Eventually they ended up in the Iberian Peninsula and it is from here they seem to have spread throughout Western Europe after the end of the last Ice Age.

During the Middle Bronze age there was a major split of **R1b-P310**, the main European subclade of **R1b**, when four new subclades emerged around **2,800 BC**.

These four Y-DNA lines make up the bulk of Western European Y-DNA.

- **R1b-P312** and its many sub-branches is the dominant branch by far. The name 'Celtic' is most often associated with this Y-DNA line.
- **R1b-U106** is much smaller than P312 and is associated with 'Anglo-Saxon' and 'Germanic' peoples.
- **R1b-S1194** shows evidence of association with 'South Baltic/Germanic' regions and is very small by comparison to both **R1b-P312** and **R1b-U106**.
- **R1b-FGC37100** is very small, but seems, thus far, to show up in the same locations as **R1b-S1194**.

European Y-DNA Breakdown



European Y-DNA Breakdown

Breakdown of R1b-M269 by Country (only results over 50%)

Country	Region	Sample	R1b	Source
Spain	Basque country	500	85.0%	Kristin Leigh Young (2009)
Ireland	National	> 5000	81.0%	FTDNA Ireland Y-DNA Project (2014)
France	Brittany	100 to 250	80.0%	Ramos-Luis et al. 2014
Wales	National	521	76.6%	FTDNA Cymru DNA Project (2022)
Ireland	Ulster	140	76.5%	FTDNA Ireland Y-DNA Project (2014)
France	Normandy	100 to 250	76.0%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
England	Cornwall & Devon	375	75.5%	FTDNA Cornwall DNA Project (2015)
France	Basque country	61	75.40%	Balaresque et al. (2009)
Scotland	National	> 5000	72.5%	FTDNA Scottish DNA Project (2014)
England	Southwest	357	72.0%	FTDNA British Isles DNA Project (2015)
Switzerland	Ticino	51	71.0%	Ziegler et al. (2020)
France	Centre-Val de Loire	34	70.6%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
France	Pays de la Loire	84	70.2%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
England	Cumbria	117	70.0%	FTDNA British Isles DNA Project (2015)
England	Northwest	301	69.5%	FTDNA British Isles DNA Project (2015)
Spain	National	> 1000	69.0%	Flores et al. (2004)
Scotland	Shetland	197	68.5%	FTDNA Scottish DNA Project (2014)
England	Home Counties	420	68.0%	FTDNA British Isles DNA Project (2015)
England	National	> 5000	67.0%	FTDNA British Isles DNA Project (2015)
France	Rhône-Alpes	100 to 250	66.5%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
Spain	Catalonia	> 1000	66.5%	Flores et al. (2004)
England	West Midlands	190	66.0%	FTDNA British Isles DNA Project (2015)
Spain	Castile-La-Mancha	100 to 250	66.0%	Flores et al. (2004)
France	Poitou-Charentes	103	65.1%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
England	Northeast	286	65.0%	FTDNA British Isles DNA Project (2015)
Spain	Castile & Leon	250 to 500	64.0%	Flores et al. (2004)
Spain	Valencia	100 to 250	63.5%	Flores et al. (2004)
England	East Midlands	200	63.0%	FTDNA British Isles DNA Project (2015)
Spain	Galicia	100 to 250	63.0%	Flores et al. (2004)
France	Burgundy-Franche Comté	40	62.5%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
Scotland	Orkney	159	62.0%	FTDNA Scottish DNA Project (2014)

European Y-DNA Breakdown

Country	Region	Sample	R1b	Source
Belgium	Flanders	981	61.5%	DNA Project (The Brabant 2020)
Belgium	National	1121	61.2%	DNA Project (The Brabant 2020)
Luxembourg	National	38	60.5%	Eupedia (2022)
Spain	Aragon	100 to 250	60.5%	Flores et al. (2004)
Portugal	National	657	59.9%	Beleza et al. (2006)
Belgium	Wallonia	140	59.5%	DNA Project (The Brabant 2020)
Italy	Lombardy	80	59.0%	Boattini et al. (2009)
France	National	> 1000	58.5%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
Spain	Andalusia	250 to 500	58.5%	Flores et al. (2004)
Spain	Asturias	100 to 250	58.5%	Flores et al. (2004)
France	Provence	100 to 250	58.0%	Ramos-Luis et al. 2014
Netherlands	National	2085	57.8%	Eveline Altena et al. (2019)
France	Ile-de-France	100 to 250	57.5%	Ramos-Luis et al. 2014
England	Anglia	466	56.5%	FTDNA East Anglia DNA Project (2015)
France	Picardy	23	56.5%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
France	Flanders-Artois	125	55.2%	Ramos-Luis et al. 2014
France	Alsace	100 to 250	55.0%	Ramos-Luis et al. 2014
France	Languedoc-Roussillon	20	55.0%	FTDNA French Heritage DNA Project
France	Midi-Pyrénées	100	55.0%	Ramos-Luis et al. 2014
Spain	Cantabria	100 to 250	55.0%	Maca-Meyer et al. (2003)
Switzerland	National	606	54.0%	Zieger (2020)
Italy	Piedmont	30	53.5%	Brisighelli et al. (2012)
France	Auvergne & Limousin	122	53.3%	Ramos-Luis et al. 2014
Italy	Tuscany	380	52.5%	Brisighelli et al. (2012)
Italy	Emilia-Romagna	192	50.5%	Ferri et al. (2008)
Spain	Extremadura	100 to 250	50.0%	Flores et al. (2004)

As you can see the top 3 results are the Basques, the Irish and the Bretons. In Ireland the national average for R1b is 81%, but in some studies, this rises to 95% in Connacht. However, this Connacht result was based on a small sample size and I could not find an Irish breakdown by province, except for Ulster.

For comparison: a 2009 report gave Wales an R1b count of 92.3% and the Basques an R1b count of 87.1%, but these were based on sample sizes of 65 and 116 respectively. A more recent study of the 521 samples on the Welsh FamilyTreeDNA product gave a result of 76.6%, so the results can be affected by a small sample size, something to be remembered when looking at them.

Europe Haplogroup R1b Distribution



The Annals of the Four Masters

The Annals of the Four Masters

In the early seventeenth century, the team of Irish historians known as the Four Masters used the structure of the **Leabhar Gabhála Éirenn** as the basis of the opening section of their **Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland**. It was compiled between 1632 and 1636 in a Franciscan friary just outside Ballyshannon in County Leitrim.

The chief compiler of the annals was Brother Mícheál Ó Cléirigh from Ballyshannon, who was assisted by, among others, Cú Choigríche Ó Cléirigh, Fearfeasa Ó Maol Chonaire and Cú Choigríche Ó Duibhgeannáin. Although only one of the authors, Mícheál Ó Cléirigh, was actually a Franciscan friar, they became known as "the Four Friars" or in the original Irish, Na Ceithre Máistrí.

The anglicized version of this was "the Four Masters", and the annals ended up becoming known as '**The Annals of the Four Masters**'.

Their purpose was to preserve the stories of ancient Ireland that were already in the process of being lost, so they collected, begged or borrowed all the ancient vellum books of local annals throughout the country they could find and compiled an all-encompassing 'Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland'.

Their forebodings as to the fate of the original vellum material that they worked from were prophetic. Scarcely one of the ancient books which were brought together with such pains has survived to the present day. The Annals provide one of the only sources of medieval and early modern Ireland from an Irish point of view. The Annals are one of the principal Irish-language sources for Irish history up to 1616 AD.

The Four Masters used the structure of the Leabhar Gabhála as the basis of the opening section of their **Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland**.

Irish mythology can be split into four main sections, or cycles.

From oldest to newest these are:

- The Mythological Cycle
- The Ulster Cycle
- The Fenian Cycle
- The King Cycle.

Each cycle is characterized by recurring themes in the stories from those cycles.

The Mythological Cycle is the oldest. Many of its stories can be found in Metrical Dindshenchas (The Lore of Places) and the Lebor Gabála Éirenn (The Book of Invasions). It tells the story of the history of Ireland from earliest times to the settlement of Ireland by the Gaels. The stories of are populated by gods and supernatural events, chiefly concerning the Tuatha De Danann, the Fir Bolg and the Milesians.

The Ulster Cycle (also known as the **Red Branch Cycle**) is set in and around the first century. This cycle marks a change away from magic towards the affairs of men. The primary figures are warriors, war, and the sorrows of war.

It focuses on the mythical Ulster king Conchobair mac Nessa and his court at Emain Macha (Navan Fort, near Armagh), the hero Cú Chulainn, and their conflict with the Connachta and queen Medb. The longest and most important tale is the epic Táin Bó Cúailnge (Cattle Raid of Cooley)

The Annals of the Four Masters

The Fenian cycle is set around the 3rd century AD. It has a lot to do with Munster, Leinster, and Scotland. It focuses on the exploits of the mythical hero Fionn mac Cumhaill (Finn McCool) and his warrior band the Fianna. It is also sometimes called the Ossianic Cycle due to supposed author - Oisín.

The Kings Cycle (also called the Historical Cycle) is the last cycle and it is a mixture of historical figures, mythological settings and adventures that were meant to be examples of how to be a good king. This cycle takes place after the Fenian cycle and covers the period when Ireland was moving away from paganism and towards Christianity. These stories focused on kings and the histories of the great houses which meant that they were written down by bards or poets so they wove the stories into mythology. The cycle features a mixture of purely mythological kings such as Labraid Loingsech and Brian Boru who was a very real historical figure.

The Annals split the Kings Cycle into two

Roll of the pagan kings of Ireland

Modelled on the Biblical Books of Kings, this chapter recounts the deeds of various kings of Ireland, most of them legendary or semi-legendary, from the time of Éber and Érimón to the early 5th century of the Christian era.

Roll of the Christian kings of Ireland

A continuation of the previous chapter, it is the most accurate part of the Annals, being concerned with historical kings of Ireland whose deeds and dates are preserved in contemporary written records.

One of the purposes of the Kings Cycle was to legitimize the lineages of the current Clan chieftains so that they all have descent from the ancient kings of Ireland, some of whom probably did not even exist.

This section of the Annals was the subject to controversy even when it was written. Tuileagna Ó Maol Chonaire, another Franciscan friar and historian criticised it as casting a slur on the status of Connacht. His views held enough influence within the Irish Franciscan community to delay publication during the lifetime of any of the participants.

The Y-DNA evidence has revealed links between Clans (and lack of links) that contradict some of the lineages.

For example, **Conn of the Hundred Battles** was King of the Connachta and they are said to be named after him. But Conn was supposed to be High King of Ireland in 123 AD and according to the tales of the Ulster cycle, the **Connachta** were fighting **the Ulaid** some 200 years previously.

So, the battles themselves may be folk memories of real battles by the **Connachta** and a mythical Conn was named after them not the other way around. The same logic probably applies to **Éogan Mór** and the **Eóganachta** in Munster.

Lebor Gabála Éirenn

Lebor Gabála Éirenn

Lebor Gabála Éirenn (literally "The Book of the Taking of Ireland"), is known in English as 'The Book of Invasions'. However it is not the name of a specific manuscript.

It is the origin story of the Irish people that exists in many versions. The origins of the tradition can only be traced back to the seventh century, although the earliest surviving manuscripts are much later. The Lebor Gabála tells of Ireland being settled (or "taken") six times by six groups of people: the people of Cessair, the people of Partholón, the people of Nemed, the Fir Bolg, the Tuatha Dé Danann, and the Milesians.

A summary of Lebor Gabála Éirenn in the Annals

Cessair

The core of the story of the peopling of Ireland was built on top of biblical traditions. It begins with Noah and the Flood, and Noah's granddaughter **Cessair** (she is not mentioned in the Bible), who was said to be the first to arrive in Ireland. They were told to go to the western edge of the world to escape the oncoming Flood. They set out in three ships, but two are lost at sea. They land in Ireland, at Dún Na mBárc on Bantry Bay, forty days before the flood.

However when the deluge comes everybody dies except Fintan mac Bóchra. He turns into a salmon, later an eagle and a hawk, living for 5,500 years after the Flood, whence he becomes a man again and recounts Ireland's history.

Partholón

Ireland is then uninhabited for 300 years, until a second group of people arrive. They are led by **Partholón**, who is descended from Noah through Magog. They are credited with introducing cattle husbandry, ploughing, cooking, brewing to Ireland and dividing the island in four.

They battle and defeat the mysterious **Fomorians**. However Partholón and his people die of plague in a single week. Only one man, Tuan mac Cairill, survives. Like Fintán, he lives for centuries in a number of forms, so that he can recount Irish history.

Nemed

Ireland is then uninhabited for 30 years, until a third group of people arrive. They are led by **Nemed**, who is also descended from Noah through Magog, making them kin of the Partholóns.

They win four battles against the **Fomorians** before Nemed and many others succumb to the plague. The remaining **Nemedians** are oppressed by the Fomorians until they eventually rebel. Most of the Nemedians are either killed in the fighting or swept away by the sea. Only one ship of thirty men escapes. Some of them go "into the north of the world", some go to Britain and become the ancestors of all Britons, and some go south to Greece.

Fir Bolg

Those who went to Greece were enslaved by the Greeks and made to carry bags of soil and clay. After 230 years, they sail back to Ireland. They are known as the **Fir Bolg** (men of bags) and contain two sub-groups known as the **Fir Domnann** and **Fir Gálioín**.

Led by their five chieftains, they divide Ireland into five provinces: Gann takes North Munster, Sengann takes South Munster, Genann takes Connacht, Rudraige takes Ulster and Slanga takes Leinster. A succession of nine High Kings rule over Ireland for the next 37 years.

Lebor Gabála Érenn

Tuatha Dé Danann

Those who went into the north of the world are the supernaturally gifted Tuatha Dé Danann (or Tuath Dé), who in the annals represented the main pagan gods of Ireland. They come to Ireland in dark clouds and land on Sliabh an Iarainn (modern day Slieve Anierin, is a large hill in County Leitrim) in the west.

They fight the **Fir Bolg** for the ownership of Ireland in the First Battle of Mag Tuired (Moytura). The Tuath Dé Danann are victorious. In some versions, the remaining Fir Bolg flee Ireland and settles on remote offshore islands, while in others they are granted the province of Connacht.

Nuada, king of the Tuatha Dé Danann, loses his hand or arm in the battle and is thus no longer fit to be their king. He is replaced by Bres (a half-Fomorian), who becomes High King of Ireland.

After seven years, Dian Cecht the physician and Credne the smith replaces Nuada's hand/arm with a working silver one, and he re-takes the kingship. The Tuatha Dé Danann then fights the Fomorians in the Second Battle of Moytura. Balor the Fomorian kills Nuada, but Dian Cecht's grandson, Lugh, kills Balor and becomes king. The Tuath Dé Danann enjoys 150 years of unbroken rule.

Milesians

We finally come to the last set of settlers to Ireland, the Milesians also known as the Gaels.

Íth spies Ireland from the top of Breogán's Tower (said to have been in modern day Galicia). He sails to Ireland and travels to Aileach Néit (on the shores of Lough Foyle near Derry) where he meets Ireland's three kings: Mac Cuill, Mac Cecht and Mac Gréine of the Tuatha Dé Danann.

However, he is killed by unnamed attackers and his men escape and return to Iberia. The Gaels set sail with a great force to avenge his death and take Ireland. They are referred to here as the Sons of Míl Espáine ("soldier of Hispania" or Milesians). After they land, they fight against the combined forces of the Tuath Dé Danann and the Fomorians. The two groups agree to divide Ireland between them: the Milesians take the world above, while the Tuath Dé take the world below (i.e. the spirit world).

T. F. O'Rahilly's Model of Irish Pre-History

T. F. O'Rahilly's Model of Irish Pre-History

T. F. (Thomas Francis) O'Rahilly (11 November 1882 – 16 November 1953) was an Irish scholar of the Celtic languages, particularly in the fields of historical linguistics and Irish dialects. He had a long and distinguished career. He was a member of the Royal Irish Academy. He was a Professor in Irish at Trinity College, Dublin (1919-1929). He was research professor in Celtic at University College Cork and stayed in this position until (1929-1935). He was Professor of Celtic languages at University College Dublin (1935-1941). He was director of the School of Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (1942 to 1947).

In 1946, he published a book, **Early Irish History and Mythology**. In it O'Rahilly proposed a historical model of Irish prehistory based on his study of the influences on the Irish language and a critical analysis of Irish mythology.

O'Rahilly's historical model has never been the generally accepted model. Irish archaeologists have fairly consistently failed to support the theory, as the archaeological evidence of these waves of settlement is lacking. But the Annals on which he based his work are still the basis of much of our accepted history until the Norman invasions.

However, I do feel that the underlying rationale behind O'Rahilly's historical model, that clues to Ireland's past might be buried in its mythology, is a valid one and that many of his linguistic conclusions may still be correct even if the overall framework he places them in is wrong,

O'Rahilly's historical model identified four separate waves of Celtic invaders:

(1) The Cruithne or Priteni (c. 700 – 500 BC)

According to O'Rahilly's model, between 700 and 500 BC, iron-wielding, Celtic-speaking people first settled in Great Britain and Ireland from the continent. They spoke a Brittonic language and called themselves Priteni or Pritani. In Ireland they were identified as Cruithne, a Goidelic adaptation of the Brittonic word Priteni. Among the Cruithne tribes that survived into the Christian era the most prominent were the Dál nAraidi in Ulster, and the Loíges and Fothairt in Leinster.

(2) The Builg or Érainn/Iverni (c. 500 BC)

Around 500 BC the country was invaded by a second wave of P-Celtic speakers.

These were the Builg or Érainn. The former name (originally Bolgi) identifies them as Belgae, a Celtic people mentioned by Julius Caesar in *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*. It appears that groups of these Belgae colonised Britain and Ireland in the late sixth or early fifth century BC. In both islands they absorbed and subjugated most of the previous inhabitants. Among the more prominent Érainn tribes were the following:

- **The Uluti** (Middle Irish: Ulaid), after whom Ulster is named. In later historical times their descendants were known as the **Dál Fiatach** and were confined to the eastern half of County Down.
- **The Darini** and **Robogdii**, two tribes whose territory was in Antrim and north Down. They were probably the ancestors of the historical **Dál Riata** or **Dál Riada**.
- The **Iverni**, the dominant Érainn tribe in Munster from whom the Érainn as a whole took their name.
- The **Ebdani**, a tribe of the east coast whose name appears as Eblani in Ptolemy's description of Ireland in his *Geography*. He calls their settlement Eblana.

T. F. O'Rahilly's Model of Irish Pre-History

(3) The Laigin, Fir Domnann and Gálioín (c. 300 BC)

About two centuries after the Bolgic invasion, Ireland was subjected to another invasion of Brythonic speakers; the Laigin, the Domnainn and the Gálioín.

According to their own traditions, they came to Ireland from Armorica (Brittany). They landed in the southeast of the country and took the southeastern quarter from the Érainn, the old province of Laigin, named after them.

Sometime in the third century BC the Laigin crossed the River Shannon and subjugated the Érainn tribes of Connacht. The Érainn continued to rule in Ulster and Munster, while the Laigin and their allies became the dominant force in Leinster and Connacht.

(4) The Goidels or Gaels (c. 100 BC)

The fourth and final Celtic invasion of Ireland was the Goidelic or Gaelic invasion. The Goidels originated in Gallia Aquitania in southwestern Gaul. Around 100 BC two groups of these Celts emigrated to Ireland, the Connachta and the Eóganachta.

The Goidels spoke a Q-Celtic language, which was the forerunner of Modern Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Manx. The P-Celtic dialects which were spoken in the country at the time (and which they referred to as Iarnbéire, "language of the Érainn") eventually became extinct.

The Connachta were led by Túathal Techtmar. They landed at the mouth of the Boyne and pushed inland to Tara. They carved out for a new province between Ulster and Leinster, running from the mouth of the Liffey to the mouth of the Boyne and inland as far as the Shannon. This fifth province came to be known as Mide (for Middle), anglicised as Meath.

The Connachta subjugated the Laigin tribes of Leinster. The Laigin leaders were allowed to retain possession of their territory, but a heavy tribute known as the Bórama (or Bórú) was imposed upon them. As their name suggests, the Connachta did not stop when they reached the Shannon. At an indeterminable point in history, some of them crossed the Shannon and conquered the western province, bestowing their name on it in the process.

The Eóganachta were led by Mogh (or Mug) Nuadat. They landed at a place called Inber Scéne, usually identified with Kenmare River in the southwest of the country. They slowly but gradually rose in power, eventually becoming the dominant force in Munster.

Issues with O'Rahilly's Model

There are two issues in O'Rahilly's Model that coloured his entire set of conclusions.

- Celtic Language Differences
- His Short Chronology

I will briefly go through both of them now.

T. F. O'Rahilly's Model of Irish Pre-History

Issue #1 - Celtic Language Differences

According to O'Rahilly's model the Goidels spoke a Q-Celtic language, which was the forerunner of Modern Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Manx. The P-Celtic dialects which were spoken in the country at the time (and which they referred to as Iarnbélre, "language of the Érainn") eventually became extinct.

The Original Q-Celtic vs. P-Celtic Hypothesis

Celtic languages constitute one distinct branch of the Indo-European languages. The modern Celtic languages are divided into two subfamilies: the Goidelic (or Gaelic) languages and the Brythonic (or Brittonic) languages. The two subfamilies can also be referred to as P-Celtic and Q-Celtic.

- P-Celtic refers to the Brythonic/Brittonic languages
- Q-Celtic refers to the Goidelic/Gaelic languages

They are called P-Celtic and Q-Celtic because, over time, differences occurred in spelling and sound changes that disguised related words. One of the most common was that some words that begin with p or b in the Brythonic languages begin with c, k or qu (/k/) in the Goidelic languages. For example, head is pen in Welsh and ceann in Irish.

The P-Celtic version of the Celtic Language was estimated to have developed around 600 BC in Switzerland from where it spread to all the P-Celtic cultures, gradually replacing Q-Celtic, which was the older version of the language. Celtiberians were thought to have continued using Q-Celtic

However this theory has been overtaken in recent years with a new "Insular Celtic hypothesis"

The Insular Celtic Hypothesis

The "Insular Celtic hypothesis" is a theory that the Brythonic and Goidelic languages evolved together in these islands, having a common ancestor more recent than any shared with the Continental Celtic languages all of which are long extinct and no written examples of which exist.

Its supporters point to common shared innovations among the two languages – chiefly:

- Inflected Prepositions
- Shared use of certain verbal particles
- Verb–Subject–Object (VSO) word order
- Differentiation of absolute and conjunct verb endings (Old Irish, Middle Welsh)

In both theories Q-Celtic is considered the older of the two language groups.

T. F. O'Rahilly's Model of Irish Pre-History

The Impact on O'Rahilly's Model

Under this new hypothesis the last common language ancestor has been dated to sometime between 200 BC and 200 AD, but nobody knows exactly when. I have seen dates as late as 500 AD given for the split; Professor Dáithí Ó hÓgáin places it from the 5th Century AD onwards, i.e. between 400 AD and 500 AD. Since the 1970's, the Insular Celtic hypothesis has slowly become the more widespread opinion.

Plus remember to take into account that languages changes do not happen overnight. An Irishman and a Welshman did not wake up one morning suddenly speaking a new language; it would be a gradual drift of language differences over generations.

Back in 1946 when T.F. O'Rahilly was writing his book, the Insular Celtic Hypothesis did not exist. In addition because O'Rahilly was using the short chronology theory of Irish history, he has the first wave of inhabitants to Ireland arriving between 700 and 500 BC and speaking a P-Celtic language. He only places the arrival of Q-Celtic to Ireland with the arrival of the Gaels around 100 BC, even though Q-Celtic is the older of the two versions.

If the "Insular Celtic hypothesis" is incorrect:

Ireland was speaking Q-Celtic for the majority of its pre-history and only the Lagenian invaders would have spoken P-Celtic. This may have been the P-Celtic dialects that O'Rahilly spoke of. The next invaders, the Goidels, as Celtiberians used Q-Celtic under the old P-Celtic and Q-Celtic hypothesis.

Plus remember to take into account that languages changes do not happen overnight. An Irishman and a Welshman did not wake up one morning suddenly speaking a new language; it would be a gradual drift of language differences over generations. So the P-Celtic dialects that O'Rahilly spoke of may have been just that; a 'dialect' rather than a different language.

If the "Insular Celtic hypothesis" is correct:

The entire debate is rendered moot as all the Celtic invaders of Ireland would have spoken Q-Celtic.

The Érainn would have spoken a Q-Celtic language. The Cruithne already in Ireland would also have used a proto-Celtic language related to Q-Celtic and over time the entire island would have spoken Q-Celtic. This is the more likely origin of the Goidelic or Gaelic Language in Ireland rather than a Goidelic Invasion in the 1st or 2nd century BC.

T. F. O'Rahilly's Model of Irish Pre-History

Issue #2 - The Short Chronology

According to O'Rahilly's model:

Between 700 and 500 BC, iron-wielding, Celtic-speaking people first settled in Great Britain and Ireland from the continent. They spoke a Brittonic language and called themselves Priteni or Pritani. The fourth and final Celtic invasion of Ireland was the Goidelic or Gaelic invasion in around 100 BC. The Goidels originated in Gallia Aquitania in southwestern Gaul. They consisted of two groups, the Connachta and the Eóganachta.

This timeline squeezes all the pre-historical migrations/invasions of Ireland into a short timeframe of 400 to 600 years. This is fundamentally at odds with the Archaeological evidence from Carbon-14 dating and the latest evidence from Archaeogenetics.

- Carbon-14 dating was only invented in 1946 and developed in the late 1940s at the University of Chicago by Willard Libby.
- Archaeogenetics is the study of ancient DNA using various molecular Genetic methods and DNA resources and only started to be developed in the 1950's.

As his book was published in 1946 it pre-dates these very important scientific breakthroughs.

The Impact on O'Rahilly's Model

We now know from the Carbon-14 dating of objects from the Neolithic Period (New Stone Age) in Ireland suggests that it began in Ireland about 7,000 BC with agricultural evidence from about 4,500 BC.

We also know from Y-DNA research that three "beaker folk" males buried about 2,000 BC on Rathlin Island were DNA tested and found to be Celtic, from Y-DNA haplogroup **DF21**. So there were Celts on Ireland from at least 2,000 BC.

In addition most historians estimate of the arrival of the final set of invaders, the Gaels (if it happened), to be in the 1st or 2nd Century AD.

These findings completely transform the timeline and allow everything to happen at a much slower pace.

Instead of a 400 to 600 year timeline, the new timeline is approximately 7,400 years if you start with the Neolithic settlers or 3,000 years if you start with the Bell Beaker Culture.

Given the new timeline there is plenty of time for additional waves of settlers into Ireland. I believe that the people he identified as the **Érainn** can be split into three different sets of tribes. This is a major departure that I have made to O'Rahilly's Historical Model

Before the **Érainn**, the **Dáirine** arrived from Britain. The **Dáirine** have traditionally been seen as a subset of the **Érainn**. They certainly fought on the same side as the **Érainn** against future invaders and both sets of migrations seem to have been largely peaceful as the **Dáirine** migrated slowly south to meet the **Érainn** who had originally settled in Munster and migrated slowly north.

After the **Érainn**, the next group that Professor O'Rahilly identifies as coming to Ireland were the Lagenians. However I believe he missed another group of settlers.

To explain why; I need to briefly discuss the Hallstatt and La Tène Cultures

T. F. O'Rahilly's Model of Irish Pre-History

The Hallstatt and La Tène Cultures

The Hallstatt culture was the predominant Western and Central European culture of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age covering a period from about 1200 BC to about 450 BC.

The early Hallstatt Culture language was Proto-Celtic in the Bronze Age, becoming mainly Celtic of the Q-Celtic variety in the Iron Age.

From by about 1500 BC the earlier Bell Beaker Culture had been overtaken by the Hallstatt culture, probably by trade and cultural exchange rather than by conquest. The Hallstatt Culture itself was gradually replaced over time by the La Tène culture which flourished from about 450 BC until the Roman conquest of Gaul in the 1st Century BC.

In Ireland there is a very distinct pattern for the distribution of Hallstatt and La Tène artefacts. If you draw a line on a map from Galway to Drogheda (the Boyne) La Tène dominates the northern half and Hallstatt the southern half.

This same line is also the split between the Northern Celts with Scottish DNA roots and the Southern Celts.

It also echo's the legendary ancient division of Ireland into Leath Cuinn (Conn's Half) and Leath Moga (Mugh's half) when Conn Céthachach defeated Mug Nuadat in the battle of Maigh Nuadad in 123 AD.

That division was straight – from Dublin to Galway – but the principle is the same. Conn's reputed grandson Cormac McArt was said to have given Brega to the Ciannachta as a territorial reward for help in the battle of Crinna. Make that alteration and Leath Cuinn (Conn's Half) resembles the La Tène – Hallstatt division.

Conn Céthachach was a retrospective ancestor of the Connachta and Uí Néill dynasties and Eoghan Mor (Mug Nuadat 's grandson) was credited with founding or at least giving his name to the Eóganachta. The dates attached to the myths are much too late and the people are probably more mythical than real but does seem to represent a genuine division of the island and maybe even the faint historical echo of actual battles. It also means these battles have been placed out of sequence in the Annals, probably to facilitate the lineage of the kings.

To differentiate between the two groups I have designated the Clans with Scottish DNA groups as '**Scoti**'

It looks like the **Érainn** and the **Scoti** arrived as two distinct waves, maybe even more than 500 or 600 years apart. This deviates significantly from O'Rahilly's Historical Model, which only splits the pre-Lagínians into the Érainn and the Cruithne.

Kingdoms, Clans and Septs

A Note on Kingdoms, Clans and Septs

The Celts were organised as confederations of tribes under a dominant tribe or tribal leader. These tribes were often related but did not have to be. A smaller clan could have been taken over by a more powerful clan but allowed to retain some or all of their territory, to whom they then owe allegiance as tenants - a legal relationship subsequently reinforced by familial ties of marriage and political protection & favour.

A good example of this is the **Cantabri**, a large tribal federation that lived in the north of Spain, near the Basques. The **Cantabri** was a federation of 11 or so tribes, one of which was called the **Vadinienses**. Recent excavations in Cantabria have uncovered a list of 13 tribes that made up the **Vadinienses**. So you have a large federation of tribes that are themselves made up of confederations of smaller tribes.

The Gaelic Clan system gave people a common identity with their people of the tribe and with the commonly shared area. The Clans eventually broke up into a number of distinct Septs or groups. These groups were headed by an original member of the clan and dominated a particular part of the countryside. The Sept name could be different from the original Clan Name.

Prior to the Norman Invasion Ireland was divided into numerous clan territories and kingdoms (known as **Túatha**). These Tuatha often competed with each and they continually grew and shrank (in both size and number).

In addition to the Tuatha, Gaelic Ireland was also divided into five prime over-kingdoms or **Cúige** (The Gaelic word for Province comes from this, **Cúige** means a fifth). These were **Ulaib** (Ulster), **Connacht**, **Laigin** (Leinster), **Mumhan** (Munster) and **Mide** (Meath).

It is important to remember that the rise of dominant Clans did not necessarily lead to the elimination of the Clans they replaced.

The **Érainn** and **Cruithne** for the most part co-existed peacefully and all parts of the country still had **Cruithne** or mixed **Érainn** and **Cruithne** Septs of various sizes and power.

After the arrival of the **Scoti** in **Connacht** and **Ulster**, **Érainn** and **Cruithne** Septs still remained in **Scoti** kingdoms, though reduced in land and power. They were seldom eradicated or expelled, just reduced to vassal status. Also, remember that at the time of the initial settlements Ireland was still relatively lightly populated and there was enough land to go around.

During the later migrations/invasions when Ireland was more populated, some major displacement of defeated Clans did take place. But even then, some Clans and septs remained in situ, their power waxing or waning during these periods as circumstances changed.

Using the **Ciannachta** as an example;

Initially they dominated Mid-Ulster and North Leinster. Over time the **Connachta**, then the **Ulaib**, then the **Airgíalla** and finally the **Ui Neill** dominated Ulster. In each case some the **Ciannachta** clans remained in the same place, or near to where they always lived, just each time acknowledging a different overlord. The **Ciannachta Glenn Geimin** of Derry is an example of this.

In **Mide** under the **Goidels** the **Ciannachta** probably regained land and status at the expense of the **Dál gCais** and the **Ulaib**.

Similar tales can be told about many of the Clans, not just the **Ciannachta**.

Kingdoms, Clans and Septs

Using Clan Names with Y-DNA

Most Irish and Scottish surnames of Gaelic origin are based on Clan surnames, by comparison most English surnames are either Patronymic (based on family Christian names), Geographical (where they lived) or Occupational (developed from a person's job, trade or position in society).

For Irish people, who mainly use Clan names, the Y-DNA Haplogroups can be used to trace back where the Clan originally came from. The age of **Haplogroups** can also be estimated so you can tell when the Haplogroup happened.

The vast majority of Gaelic Irish surnames were created during the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Having the same surname does not guarantee that you will have the same Y-DNA lineage. In the analysis done by Dr. Brad Larkin and by the various FamilyTreeDNA Group Projects the Y-DNA lineage is assigned based on having a large group of people with the same surnames having similar Y-DNA profiles, not on everybody having the same profile. Most groups have some people with different Y-DNA profiles.

Probably the most extreme example of such Y-DNA diversity is people with the surname **Murphy**.

Murphy is by far the most frequently found surname of Irish origin with well over 50,000 bearers of the name in Ireland alone. You will also find different Murphy's with every single one of the major Irish related Celtic DNA markers found and even Murphy's with Iron-Age non-Celtic DNA markers.

There are also Septs that are clearly split into 2 or 3 groups. This is probably due to smaller groups linking up to create a stronger Clan and all ended up all adopting the same surname and you will see examples of that in this document.

The Haplogroup **R1b** (also known as **R-M343**) is the most frequently occurring paternal lineage in Western Europe. While the Haplogroup **I2a (I-M438)** is the most frequent Y-DNA among western European Mesolithic hunter gatherers.

- Most of the Cruithne belong to Haplogroup **I2a**, with some pre-Celtic **R1b** elements.
- The Celts and most Western Indo-Europeans belong to Haplogroup **R1b**
- Most Eastern Indo-Europeans belong to Haplogroup **R1a**
- About 2,800 BC, the Celts (Haplogroup **R1b-P312**) and the Anglo-Saxons (Haplogroup **R1b-U106**) split from each other
- About 2,500 BC, the Celts split into Brythonic (**R1b-Z290**), Celtiberian (**R1b-ZZ11**) and others.

And so on, and so on...

In this document, where I give you the estimated age of each Haplogroup, the confidence interval is +/- **300 years**. This is fairly broad, but the science of calculating the age of Haplogroups is still a work in progress. These estimates were taken from the Block information on www.ytree.net

This does not mean that everybody decided to immediately go off and invade Ireland as soon as a new Haplogroup appeared. It is just an estimate of how old it is. However it may be indicative of a cut-off time for the earliest they may have appeared in Ireland.

Of course the modern provinces and counties did not exist at all at this time, as these province and county boundaries were only created in two phases during the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries, corresponding with the two great periods of English expansion in Ireland. I am just using them as a convenient geographical term of reference.

Irish Pre-Viking Y-DNA Breakdown

Stone-Age Ireland Y-DNA

The earliest evidence of human occupation in Ireland after the Ice Age was dated to the Mesolithic Age, which were around 7,000 BC. However this date was pushed back some 2,500 years by a radiocarbon dating performed in 2016 on a bear bone excavated in 1903 in the "Alice and Gwendoline Cave", County Clare, which put it in the late Palaeolithic Age.

Neolithic archaeological evidence from around 4500 BC shows a change from Hunter-Gatherer to Agriculture. This includes cereal cultivars, a housing culture (similar to those of the same period in Scotland) and stone monuments. Sheep, goats, cattle and cereals were imported from south-western continental Europe, after which the population rose significantly.

The oldest dated evidence is from about 4,350 BC at Ferriter's Cove on the Dingle Peninsula, where a flint knife, cattle bones and a sheep's tooth were found.

At the Céide Fields in County Mayo, an extensive Neolithic field system (arguably the oldest known in the world) has been preserved beneath a blanket of peat. Consisting of small fields separated from one another by dry-stone walls, the Céide Fields were farmed for several centuries between 3500 and 3000 BC. Wheat and barley were the principal crops cultivated. Pottery made its appearance around the same time as agriculture

The most striking characteristic of the Neolithic in Ireland is the sudden appearance and proliferation of megalithic monuments, more than 1,200 of which are now known. The most famous of them is Newgrange, one of the oldest astronomically aligned monuments in the world. It was built around 3,200 BC.

The Haplogroups which turn up in Irish pre-Celtic Y-DNA can immediately be split into four sections

G-M201

The ancient **G-M201** Haplogroup has been identified in Neolithic human remains in Europe dating between 5,000 and 3,000 BC. They are descendants of Neolithic farmers from Anatolia, among some of the earliest peoples in the world to practice agriculture.

G-M201 has also been found in Neolithic Anatolian sites dating back as far as 8,300 to 7,600 BCE.

Among 796 samples taken in all areas of Ireland from Ireland, none were found to be Haplogroup G. However, the actual figure in the population is certainly not zero because there are dozens of samples of people of Irish ancestry with Y-DNA of Haplogroup G in various databases.

H-L901

Haplogroup H is one of the most predominant Haplogroups amongst populations in South Asia. It has only been found in sparse levels primarily in Europe and the Middle East since prehistory.

It has been found in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic culture centred in upper Mesopotamia and the Levant, dating from 10,800 to 8,500 years ago, has been found in remains of the later Linear Pottery culture and in Neolithic Iberia. It probably entered Europe during the Neolithic with the spread of agriculture

In 2020, Trinity College sequenced 44 individuals from Irish passage grave burials ranging in age from 4,793 BC to 2,910 BC. All of the men are members of haplogroup I, except two who were Y-DNA haplogroup H.

- Baunogenasraid (near Moyle, County Carlow) - H-L901-FT362000 age about 3,500 BC
- Jerpoint West, (Near Thomasrown, County Kilkenny) - H-L901-FT362000 age about 3,500 BC

Irish Pre-Viking Y-DNA Breakdown

I2a-L460 (age about 20,000 BC)

This is the pre-Celtic Bronze Age Haplogroup to which most of the Cruithne belongs. These people belonged to the Bell Beakers culture. They were the basic population of most of Western Europe before the arrival of the Indo-European peoples like the Greeks and Celts into Europe.

Archaeologically, their presence was defined by the presence of 'beaker'-shaped vessels that are generally found in funerary contexts and often next to crouched human burials, hence the name – Bell Beakers.

But the Bell Beaker culture was more than just about pottery, it also involving metalworking in copper and gold, specific types of ornamentation and archery.

The Bell Beakers were not a single tribe or even a single group of tribes.

It is believed to have originated on the Iberian Peninsula with early examples of the Beaker design having been found at the Tagus estuary in Portugal, radiocarbon dated to around the 2,800 BC.

The initial migrations of the Bell Beakers were by sea. They set up enclaves at major river estuaries, which, over time led to the establishments of long-distance exchange networks. Their culture was adopted over time by the surrounding tribes.

- Going south in to the Mediterranean where enclaves were established in south-western Spain, around Marseille in France, in the Po Valley in Italy and on the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.
- A northern move included the Basque region in Spain. In France it included the Loire Valley and southern coast of Armorica and the Seine Valley, and thence to the lower Rhine by about 2,600 BC

The genetic evidence seems to indicate that these people came to Ireland from the Iberian Peninsula. This is not just confined to Human DNA, animals such as pygmy shrews, badgers, mountain hares and pine martins in Ireland are all related to species from Spain, rather than from Britain.

Research on Ancient DNA from Neolithic skeletons in Spain and Portugal showed that all female lineages are in clear continuity with earlier Neolithic samples. On the male side the majority of the men have I2a and G2a Y-DNA, but about 35% of the men have **R1b Y-DNA**, showing some migration from central Europe had already occurred. But the migrants to Iberia appear to have been exclusively male.

They were not Celts but their DNA is still an important part of the Irish (and British) peoples. As the various Indo-European peoples spread throughout Europe, they all inter-married with the original populations. So Celtic DNA contains Bell Beaker DNA within it. These waves saw the Celts pushed west by the Germanic tribes, who in turn were pushed west by the Slav's and so on. The further west in Europe you go, the more Bell Beaker DNA you find in the current populations.

The **R1b** Bell Beaker DNA would have been pre-Celtic (and pre-Anglo-Saxon for that matter).

A study by FamilyTreeDNA in 2017 gave an estimate that only **0.6%** of Irish Y-DNA that was **R1b** was **Pre-Celtic**, compared to **18.3%** for **I2a-M223** Y-DNA

Haplogroup **I2a-L460>M436>M223** has an estimated age about 4,700 BC, but they probably did not arrive in Ireland in about 2,500 BC.

Irish Pre-Viking Y-DNA Breakdown

Irish Celtic Y-DNA Breakdown

R1b-DF27 (age about 2,500 BC)

The **R-DF27** branch of the Y-DNA tree has been proposed as a haplogroup of Iberian origin due to its maximum frequencies in the Iberian Peninsula.

The regions where it has been mostly found are Basque Country, Navarre, Asturias, Galicia, Portugal, Aragon, Catalonia and in the Aquitaine region of France. For this reason it is often called 'Celtiberian'

According to myth, the final Celtic invasion of Ireland was a Goidelic invasion by the sons of Milesius from Spain. The Milesians are supposed to represent the vast majority of the Irish Gaels.

We do have Iberian links; in fact, genetic studies show we have close genetic links to Galicia and the Basque regions of Spain. However, so do the Welsh and the Cornish.

However this genetic link could also be from the pre-Celtic Bell Beaker people who populated the British Isles before the coming of the Celts and intermarried with the Celtic settlers. This link is also via our complete DNA and not just from Y-DNA

R1b-L21> DF13 (age about 2,100 BC)

R1b-L21, Subgroup **DF13** is characteristic of the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland.

Currently this haplogroup is mostly found among the inhabitants of Ireland, Great Britain and Brittany, but is also in western France, with a smaller presence in Northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The Majority of Irish Celtic DNA belongs to this Haplogroup.

This does not mean that the Celtic tribes in question actually came from Britain, many of them probably did, but some of them could have come from tribes that populated both sides of the English Channel. For example, most of the Celtic tribes in the northern half of Ireland seem to have come from Scotland originally.

The majority of Irish Celtic Y-DNA is characteristic of **R1b-L21**.

This subgroup seems to represent the first Celtic settlers to Ireland and can be broken down into further Y-DNA subgroups and subclades.

The R1b-L21> DF13 Subgroups are:

R1b>>L21> DF13>DF21

An important and significant subgroup within **R1b-L21** is **DF21**.

Current indications are that the **DF21** Haplogroup originated somewhere in the British Isles, but more research probably needs to be done to pin down where in Britain this occurred. There is some work that indicates it may have occurred in southern Britain with links pointing towards the **Trinovantes** tribe who were one of the dominant tribes in England until the Belgae tribes started migrating there in about the 6th Century BC.

The strongest concentration of **DF21** in modern Britain is that of a band across central Scotland, from Strathclyde to east Stirlingshire. However, they may also have ended up there under migratory pressure from the Anglo-Saxons and the Danes and have originated further south.

Irish Pre-Viking Y-DNA Breakdown

The R1b-L21> DF13 Subgroups (continued)

R1b >>L21>DF13>Z39589

This subgroup can be traced back to the area of Scotland just beyond the Antonine Wall, built by the Romans across what is now the Central Belt of Scotland, between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde.

This subgroup includes the **R-M222** subclade,

The **R-M222** branch of the Y-DNA tree has been designated as Northwestern Irish or the Irish Type I subclade. It is the dominant Y-DNA SNP for the northern half of Ireland and is heavily linked to the Uí Néill dynasty. It was originally reported in the media as the 'Niall of the Nine Hostages' DNA marker, but the subclade occurred in approximately 100 BC about 500 years before Niall's birth.

R1b>>L21>DF13>ZZ10

This subgroup can be traced back to the Laigin and includes the **R-L226** subclade.

The **L226** branch of the Y-DNA tree has been designated as the Irish Type III subclade. This Haplogroup is linked to Brian Boru and the Dál gCais

R1b>>L21>DF13>L513

This subclade belongs to the Ulaid and to Border Scots Y-DNA associated with the Ulster Scots

R1b>>L21> DF13>FGC5494

This subclade belongs to the Osraighe from Kilkenny and the Uí Failghe Clans from Offaly, North Laois, and West Kildare. It also belongs to a disparate group of clans that occupy sections of the former kingdom of Breifne that I have linked together under the Benntraige, a tribal grouping that originally existed in South-East Ireland.

R1b>>L21> DF13>FGC11134

This subclade belongs to the Eóganachta of South Munster. It contains the **R-CTS4466** Subclade, which has been designated as the Irish Type II subclade; it is the dominant Y-DNA SNP for Munster

Other lesser Y-DNA groupings also exist but these seem to be the major ones. As Y-DNA research continues new groups will probably be found and the existing subclades I have outlined will undoubtedly also be split up into separate Clans and Septs

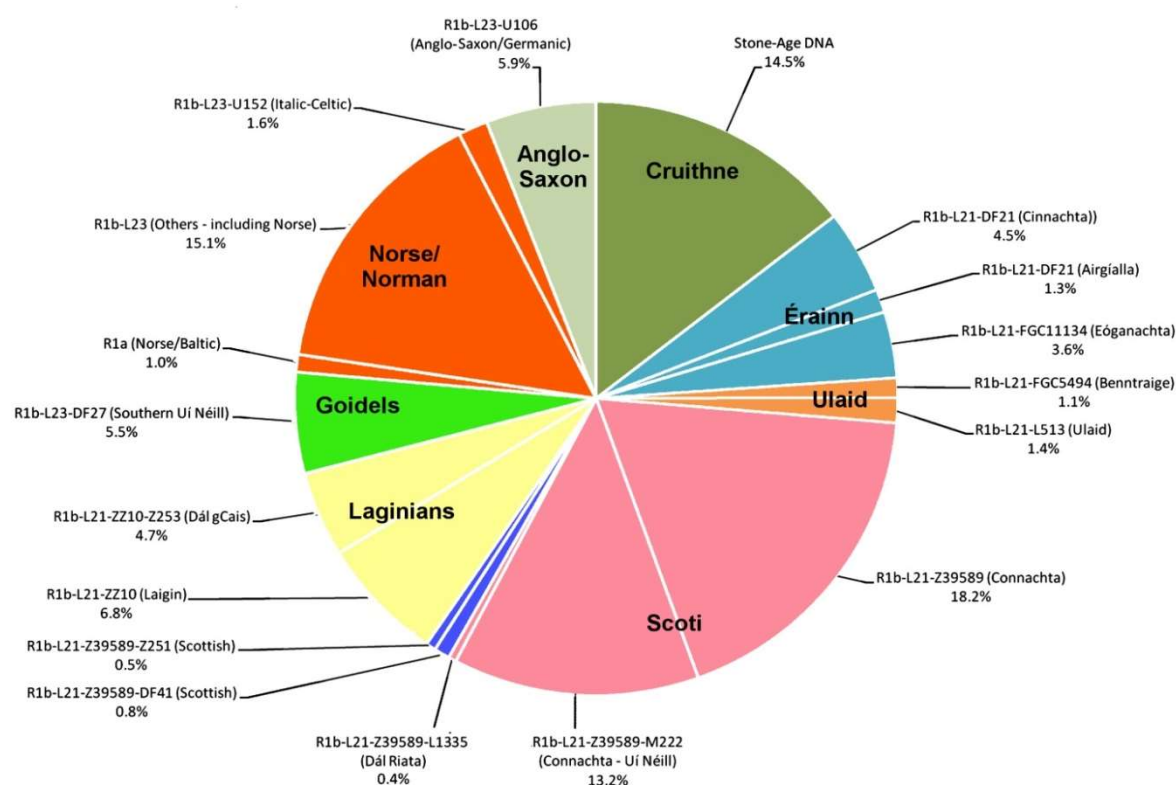
Irish Pre-Viking Y-DNA Breakdown

Irish DNA Mapping Summary

An Irish DNA mapping project done by Dr. Brad Larkin for FamilyTreeDNA in March 2020 showed the following Breakdown of Irish Y-DNA

- **55.5% - R1b-L21 (Insular Celtic)**
- **15.4% - I2a-L460 (Pre-Celtic)**
- **5.5% - R-DF27 (Celtiberian)**
- **5.9%, - R-U106 (Anglo-Saxon)**
- **17.7% - Norse and other continental Y-DNA**

The Norse/Norman section is a catch-all section. It contains the Y-DNA of both the Norse who settled in Ireland about the 7th century, the Norse elements of the Normans who arrived in the late 10th century, plus other Continental Celtic elements that probably arrived with the Normans.



The sample size is too small (only 946 people with the ambiguous results excluded) to be considered definitive, but it is indicative of the overall picture. For example, other studies have put the Celtiberian (DF27) element of British and Irish Y-DNA (combined) in the **4% to 12%** range

So the myth that most Irish people are descended from the Gaels is clearly incorrect.

A Note of Caution: This Y-DNA breakdown by Tribes/Clans is only a simple interpretation of a complex web of interconnecting DNA.

- The **R1b-DF27** segment includes the Norman de Burgh's (Burkes) who became the Earls of Ulster.
- **R1b-L21>FGC5494** also includes both Érainn and Norman elements.
- The **Scots-Irish** will also include people with the **R1b-L513** Y-DNA of the **Ulaide** as this Y-DNA is also prevalent in the border regions of Scotland and England.
- Finally, a personal example; one of my Great-Great-Great-Grandfathers was a John Sutcliffe who came over from Yorkshire in about 1800. Sutcliffe Y-DNA (based on the small sample in Family Tree YDNA) is **R1b-L21>FGC5494**, so Brythonic-Celtic not Anglo-Saxon.

A Composite Historical Model of Irish History

The Original Stone Age Settlers

The First Wave: The Original Stone Age Settlers

Just about everything in O'Rahilly's model about the Pretanic colonisation is wrong.

- They were not Celt's
- They arrived in Ireland much earlier than O'Rahilly predicted.
- The Darini seem to be at least partially Cruithne and not part of the Bolgic/Érainn invasion.

Carbon-14 dating of objects from the Neolithic Period (New Stone Age) in Ireland suggests that it began in Ireland about 9,500 BC with agricultural evidence from about 4,500 BC. It was these Neolithic people who built the great megalithic monuments in Ireland. This construction peaked at Brú Na Bóinne in Meath, where Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth were the largest such monuments constructed in Ireland. Newgrange is estimated to be built around 3,200 BC.

A climate downturn from around 3,500 BC pushed the Neolithic populations in Europe into a thousand-year-long decline. By the time the Bell Beaker people arrived in Ireland around 2,500 BC Newgrange was no longer being used by the local population, it was already in ruins and squatters were living around its collapsing edge

A DNA study in 2015 suggests that the Neolithic population in Ireland had been almost completely replaced by the newcomers, the Bell Beaker people, by about 2,500 BC. It is estimated that the newcomers replaced about 90% of the existing gene pool in the space of just a few centuries.

Alastair Moffat of Ireland DNA has proposed that the lack of G-M201 Y-DNA in the Irish population suggested that some type of stone-age genocide took place, but plague is a much more likely explanation. Something similar happened in the Americas when Europeans brought diseases like smallpox with them which the indigenous populations had no resistance.

Interestingly, in the *Lebor Gabála Éirenn (The Book of Invasions)* the people of the 2nd migration into Ireland (led by Partholón) were wiped out by plague and the people of the 3rd migration (led by Nemed) were severely weakened by plague. Perhaps these stories are a faint folk memory of this event.

These original Stone Age settlers belonged to the **G, H** and **I2a** Haplogroups.

The **G-M201** Haplogroup persists to this day in the Y-DNA of about **1.5%** of the Irish population. It's on an individual basis from survivors of the plague who joined the Clans of the Bell Beakers; there is no tribe of Stone Age people that survived.

I2a-L460 is also the main Haplogroup of the new settlers, the Bell Beaker Culture, more Archaeogenetic work needs to be done see if we can separate the I2 Neolithic settlers from the Bell Beakers.

There are people with a different set of Neolithic Y-DNA in Ireland, the **J-M304** Haplogroup. But an analysis of the surnames of people who have it suggests that they arrived in Ireland as part of the Norman invasion.

The Bell Beakers

The Second Wave: The Bell Beakers

It is these newcomers who become the **Cruithne** in Ireland and the Picts in Britain.

The Bell Beakers were the basic population of most of Western Europe before the arrival of the Indo-European peoples like the Greeks and Celts into Europe.

Archaeologically, their presence was defined by the presence of 'beaker'-shaped vessels that are generally found in funerary contexts and often next to crouched human burials, hence the name – Bell Beakers.

But the Bell Beaker culture was more than just about pottery, it also involving metalworking in copper and gold, specific types of ornamentation and archery.

The Bell Beakers were not a single Tribe or even a single group of tribes.

It is believed to have originated on the Iberian Peninsula with early examples of the Beaker design having been found at the Tagus estuary in Portugal, radiocarbon dated to around the 2,800 BC.

The initial migrations of the Bell Beakers were by sea. They set up enclaves at major river estuaries, which, over time led to the establishments of long-distance exchange networks. Their culture was adopted over time by the surrounding tribes.

- Going south in to the Mediterranean where enclaves were established in south-western Spain, around Marseille in France, in the Po Valley in Italy and on the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.
- A northern move included the Basque region in Spain. In France it included the Loire Valley and southern coast of Armorica and the Seine Valley, and thence to the lower Rhine by about 2,600 BC

The genetic evidence seems to indicate that these people came to Ireland from the Iberian Peninsula. This is not just confined to Human DNA, animals such as pygmy shrews, badgers, mountain hares and pine martins in Ireland are all related to species from Spain, rather than from Britain.

Bell Beaker DNA

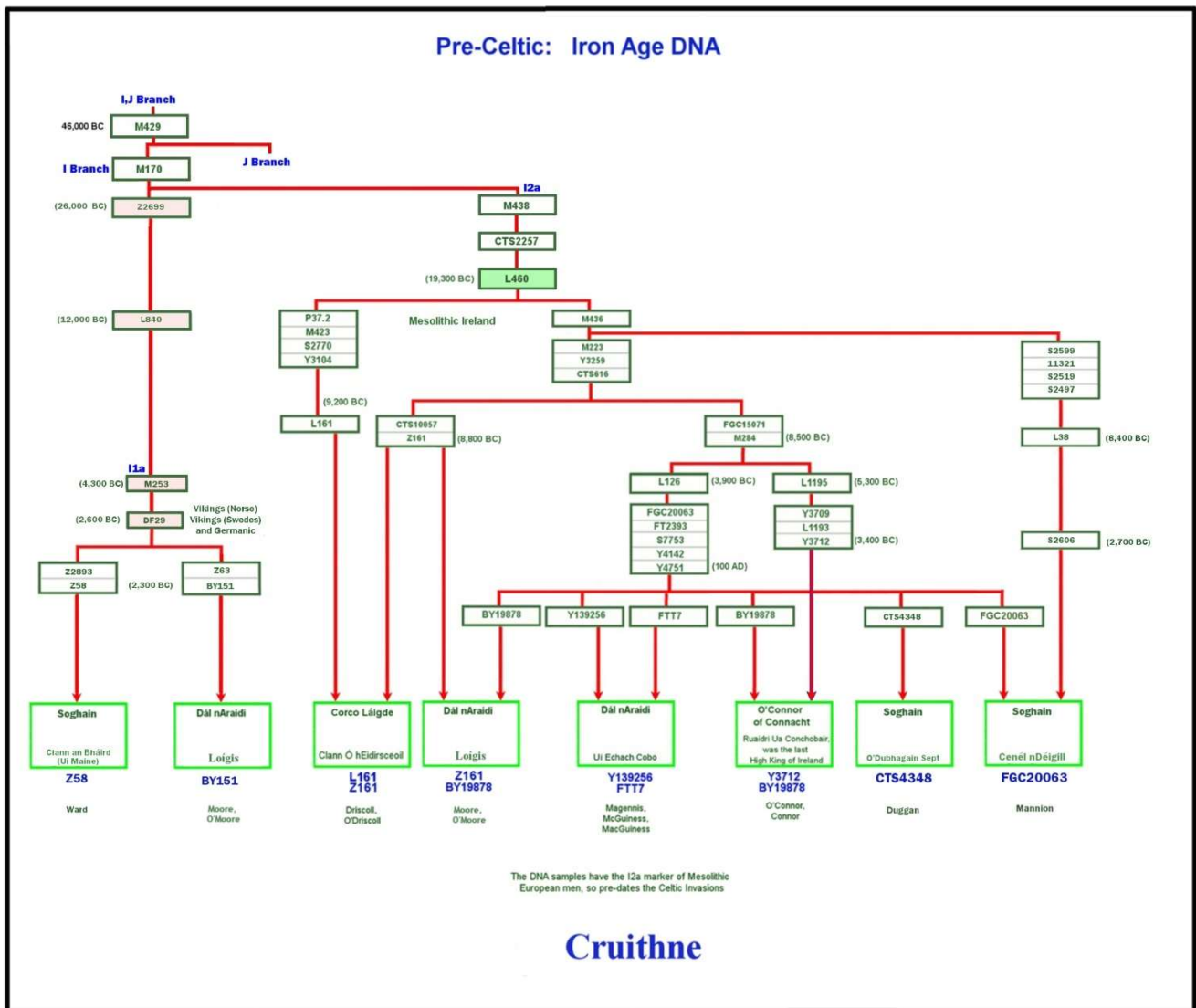
Research on Ancient DNA from Neolithic skeletons in Spain and Portugal showed that all female lineages are in clear continuity with earlier Neolithic samples. On the male side, some R1b men do show up among the Neolithic I2a and G2a, showing that a limited migration from central Europe had already occurred. But the migration was much more limited than in central and northwest Europe, and the migrants to Iberia appear to have been exclusively male.

The Bell Beakers were not Celts but their DNA is still an important part of the Irish (and British) peoples DNA. As the various Indo-European peoples spread throughout Europe, they all inter-married with the original populations. So Celtic DNA contains Bell Beaker DNA within it. These waves saw the Celts pushed west by the Germanic tribes, who in turn were pushed west by the Slav's and so on. The further west in Europe you go, the more Bell Beaker DNA you find in the current populations.

The **R1b** Bell Beaker DNA would have been pre-Celtic and pre-Anglo-Saxon.

A study by FamilyTreeDNA in 2017 gave an estimate that only **0.6%** of Irish Y-DNA was **R1b Pre-Celtic**, compared to **18.3%** for **I2a-M223 Y-DNA**

The Bell Beakers



The 17th-century scholar Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh stated that the **Cruithne** included "the **Dál nAraidi**, the seven **Loígis** of Leinster, the seven **Soghain** of Ireland, and every **Conaille** that is in Ireland."

I have identified four such Cruithne Septs from the Y-DNA research published on-line.

- The **Dál nAraidi** in Ulster
- The **Loígis** Sept of the O'Moore's in Leinster
- The **Uí Briúin Aí** of the O'Connors in Connacht
- The **Corcu Loígde** in Munster
- The **Soghain** in Connacht

All the surnames outlined below have significant **Cruithne** Y-DNA. However they also have other Y-DNA also associated with them, in most cases from the major Y-DNA groups that surrounded them.

The presence of **I1a-L121** Y-DNA, which is generally associated with Norse or Germanic Tribes, in both the **Loígis** and the **Soghain** is very interesting and suggests there was ongoing interaction of Neolithic groups even before the arrival of the Celts. This could also be from Pictish elements in the Septs.

The Bell Beakers

Clan / Group	Y-DNA Markers	Major Clan Names	Surnames
Dál nAraidi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>FGC15071>L126>>Y139256 I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>FGC15071>L126>>FTT7 	Uí Echach Cobo	Magennis/MacGuinness
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>CTS10057>Z161>Z189> I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>FGC15071>L126>>BY19878 I1-M253>I1a-L121>DF29> Z63>BY151 	Loígis	Moore, O'Moore
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>FGC15071>L126>>BY19878 I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>FGC15071>L1195>>Y3712 	Síol Muireadaigh Ua Conchobair	O'Connor, Connor
Corcu Loígde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>CTS10057>Z161 I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>P37.2>M423>>L161 	Clann Ó hEidirsceoil	Driscoll, O'Driscoll
Soghain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>FGC15071>L126>FGC20063 I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>S2599>11321>S2519>S2497 >L38>S2606 	Cenél nDéigill	Mannion
	I1-M253>I1a-L121>DF29>Z2893>Z58>	Clann an Bháird (Ui Maine)	Ward
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-M429>M170>Ia2-M438>CTS2257>L460>M436>M223>>CTS10057>Z161>CTS4348> 	O'Dubhagain Sept	Duggan

Dál nAraidi

The **Dál nAraidi** were the dominant group among the Cruithne in Ulster. By the late 8th century, **Dál Fiatach** (Ulaid) expansion had cut off the County Antrim and County Down branches of the **Dál nAraidi** from each other. As a result, the County Down branch consolidated into the kingdom of the **Uí Echach Cobo**. You will find people with the Magennis/MacGuinness surname with Y-DNA of the other main Ulster groupings, but a majority of them have the **I2a Y-DNA** of the Bell Beakers, which make them **Cruithne** and probably strengthens the case to link them to the **Dál nAraidi**.

The Loígis

The **Loígis**, Láigsi or Laoighisi, were reputed to be of Cruithne or Pict origin. The Annals record that after the 3rd century AD, the family group that would become the O'Moores came from Ulster to Leinster and helped to defend Leinster and expel the Munster forces from the region. There are many Moore's on the Family Tree DNA Project with the **R1b_DF21** of the **Ciannachta** in addition to the **Cruithne** Y-DNA above, making both them and the **Dál nAraidi** mixed **Ciannachta-Cruithne** Septs.

The Soghain

I also found **Cruithne** Y-DNA for three of the septs associated with **Soghain** in Connacht, **Ó Mannáin** (Mannion), **McWards** (Ward) and **O'Dugevans** (Duggans).

The Bell Beakers

Corcu Loígde

The **Corcu Loígde** was a kingdom centred in West County Cork who were said to be descended from the proto-historical rulers of Munster, the **Dáirine**. The hereditary chiefs of the Corcu Loígde were the O'Driscolls and given that the majority of the O'Driscolls do have **Cruithne** Y-DNA, they were probably originally a **Cruithne** Sept.

However there are also many O'Driscolls with **Eóganachta** R-CTS4466 Y-DNA and while other surnames associated with the Corcu Loígde like Coffey, O'Leary and Flynn do have some **Cruithne** DNA, the main Y-DNA they have is **Eóganachta** R-CTS4466. So over time the Corcu Loígde became a mixed **Cruithne/Eóganachta** Clan.

Uí Briúin Aí

While many O'Connor's from Connacht do have the Celtic **R1b-M222** DNA marker from the Northern Uí Néill, many more have the **I2a-L460** DNA marker of the Pre-Celtic Iron-Age Bell Beaker people.

Connacht (and people with Clan names associated with Connacht) has the greatest concentration of people with pre-Celtic Iron Age Y-DNA markers. Other Clans, like the Conmaicne, the Fir Chera and the Calaire in Connacht and the Conaille Muirtheimne in Louth are probably also Cruithne, but the Y-DNA research I found on-line did not have enough data. I am sure that further Y-DNA research will uncover many more.

Ptolemy's Tribes and their Origins

The Dál nAraidi are the Darini

The Uí Echach Cobo Sept is a known remnant of the Dál nAraidi. At its greatest extent, the borders of Dál nAraidi roughly matched those of County Antrim, and they seemed to occupy the same area as the earlier Darini of Ptolemy's Geography

The Cruithne Septs of Connacht are the Nagnatai

The area where Ptolemy placed the Nagnatai is the same as the region traditionally controlled by the **Uí Briúin Aí**, who in turn were named after **Mag nAí**, the lands around the ancient centre of Connacht. Coincidentally, some of the ancient Greek and Latin translators of Ptolemy's Geography have translated the Nagnatai as Magnatai or Magnaoi
Uí Briúin Aí were divided into

- The Síol Muireadaigh (Ua Conchobair - O'Connor)
- The Síl Cathail (Mac Cathail) - (McCall, Cahill, Charles, Corless)

The Uí Briúin Septs were part of the Connachta and supposedly all were descended from the same stock as the Northern Uí Néill. The rest of the Septs are, but the Ua Conchobair seems to be mostly Cruithne so I feel there is a good correlation between the **Ua Conchobair** and the **Nagnatai**.

The Dáirine

The Third Wave - The Dáirine

The **Dáirine** were the first of the Celts to arrive in Ireland. Hallstatt artefacts found in Ireland have been dated as early as 800 BC. However there is DNA evidence the **Dáirine** arrived even earlier than that. Three "beaker folk" males buried about 2000 BC on Rathlin Island were DNA tested and found not to be Cruithne, but Celtic, from Y-DNA haplogroup **DF21**. They even pre-date the start of the Hallstatt Culture. So the **Cruithne** and the **Dáirine** were sharing the Island of Ireland from about 2,000 BC.

This also places the **Dáirine** and the later **Érainn** in Bronze Age Ireland, another significant departure from O'Rahilly's Historical Model which places the arrival of the Celts in the Iron Age.

The **Dáirine** was probably a migration over time. Not all the tribes would necessarily have migrated at the same time. Ireland would have been sparsely populated at that time so there was plenty of space for new peoples, so it was probably mainly peaceful, for example:

- The **Dál nAraidi** was made up of combined Septs of Cruithne and Érainn origin.
- The **Corcu Loígde** still remained a dominant force in Munster until the early 7th century AD

The **Ciannachta** are probably the **Dáirine** who were considered part of the **Érainn** but distinct from the Eóganachta who slowly rose to prominence in the south.

From the Y-DNA evidence found some of the Ciannachta were already established in Ireland about 2,000 BC.

I mentioned earlier that the **Dál nAraidi** were the Darini of Ptolemy's Geography. Opposite them in Scotland were the **Novantes**, whose name brings to mind the **Trinovantes** of Southern England and to whom they were probably related (see the Airghialla below).

This is the most likely origin of the **Ciannachta** migration to Ireland.

Collectively, the all **R1b-DF21** related Clans are a good fit for the **Ciannachta**

The **R1b-DF21** related Clans are:

- The Loígis - the Seven Septs of Laois
- The Ely O'Carroll of Tipperary
- Ciannachta Glenn Geimin of Derry
- Ciannachta Breg – found in Brega (between the Liffey and the Boyne)
- An Eóganacht dynasty of Cashel
- The Airghialla of South Ulster

Ptolemy's Tribes and their Origins

The Ciannachta are the Eblani

Ptolemy's **Eblani** correspond best to the group known in Irish as the **Ciannachta Breg** who were pushed out of Mide by the Southern Uí Néill and would have originally held the area ascribed to the **Eblani**.

All of the **Ciannachta** belong to **R1b-DF21**, which originated in Britain. Where in Britain we do not know at the moment, but given where they settled in Ireland, I would suggest the migration itself came from northern Britain.

I said earlier that the **Darini** (Dál nAraidi) were a combined Cruithne and **Dáirine** Clan. The **Dáirine** part would have been **Ciannachta** DNA - **R1b-DF21**.

The Dáirine

Clan / Group	Y-DNA Markers	Major Clan Names	Surnames
Loígis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>DF21>Z30233>>A818 	The Seven Septs of Laois (So far DNA evidence for 5 of the 7 Septs)	Moore, O'Kelly, O'Dowling, Lalor/Lawler/Lawlor, O'Devoy /O'Deevy, Devine
Cárthach (King of the Eóghanacht Cashel d. 1045)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>DF21>FGC3213>>L362 	Eóganacht Chaisil Clann Fáilbe	McCarthy (grp B, most of the McCarthys), O'Callaghan, O'Sullivan
Éile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>DF21>S5488>>Z16282 	Éile (Ely) O'Carroll	O'Carroll, Bowe, Dooley, Flanagan, Keefe, Kealy, Meagher/ Maher, Redmond, Murphy
Ciannachta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>> L21 > DF13 > DF21 > S5488 > FGC11358 R1b>>L21 > DF13 > DF21 > FGC3213 > ZZ1 	Glenn Geimin of Derry	Connor, Cain/ McCain, Kane/Keane

I could not find any public Y-DNA information for Ciannachta Breg related surnames (O'Hara's, O'Gara's) so I did not include them.

Initially I identified eight groups that could be the **Érainn** and the **Dáirine** from the Y-DNA research published on-line. However after a deeper examination I came to the conclusion that only four should be considered the **Dáirine** and three the **Érainn**.

The final group, the **Airgíalla** is genetically linked to the **Dáirine**, but they were part of the Goidelic invasion and I will deal with them in that section.

The Dáirine

The Ciannachta

There are multiple Clans and Septs that identify as being Ciannachta. I have only been able to link four of them by Y-DNA

The Glenn Geimin of Derry

- **R1b>> L21 > DF13 > DF21 > S5488 > FGC11358**
- **R1b>>L21 > DF13 > DF21 > FGC3213 > ZZ1**

The **Glenn Geimin** are an example of a Sept with multiple DNA strands. As well as the multiple DF21 strand above, as a Sept based in Derry, they were heavily influenced by both the **Connachta** and the **Airgíalla**. So you will also find people with **M222** and **Z3008 Y-DNA** in the Sept. They are also a great example of a Sept which remained in place despite the switching of power between the major Clans in the region.

The Loígis - The Seven Septs of Laois

- **R1b-L21> DF13 > DF21>Z30233 age is about 2, 000 BC**

The Seven Septs of Laois are interesting because they originated in Ulster. They were thought to have been of Cruithne origin and descended from the Dál nAraidi. The Dál nAraidi was composed of Cruithne and Celtic elements, so the **Loígis** may have been of the part of the Celtic element and of the same stock that produced Rathlin Island Man in 2,100 BC.

This confederation began after the 3rd century BC, when the family group that would become the O'Moores came from Ulster and helped to defend Leinster and expelled the Munster forces from the region. They continued to hold principality over what became Leix (Laois), so named after Laoighseach Ó Mórdha., a famous King of Laois, and this confederation continued until the 1500's. The last Haplogroup before they split up into the seven Septs was **A818**, which has an estimated age of **400 AD**, well after they arrived in Laois.

The Other Eóganachta dynasty of south Munster

- **R1b-L21> DF13 > DF21>FGC3213 (age about 2,000 BC)**

Eóganacht Chaisil is split between two different DNA lines. So there are two groups of McCarthys, O'Callaghans and O'Sullivans. In fact most of the McCarthys belong to this second group **R1b-FGC3213**, so the **Eóganacht Chaisil** was primarily a Ciannachta Clan.

Éile – The Ely O'Carroll

- **R1b-L21> DF13 > DF21>S5488 (age about 1,400 BC)**

The territory of the Éile was bounded to the north by the Kingdom of Mide, to the south by Cashel and to the east by the Kingdom of Ossory. The clan of Éile claimed descent from Cian, a younger son of Ailill Aulom and brother of Eógan Mór, and thus had kinship with the Eóganachta. By tradition, Cian is where the **Ciannachta** got their name. Eógan Mór is where the **Eóganachta** got their name.

The **Éile** close kinship to the **Eóganacht Chaisil** is shown by the common **DF21** ancestry. That their territory was adjacent to Cashel is probably not a coincidence either. The fact that the dominant DNA marker in Munster, **CTS4466**, belongs to the other **Eóganachta** tends to indicate to me than the **Eóganacht Chaisil** and the **Éile** imposed themselves on an existing settled gene pool.

Brythonic and/or Gallic Irish DNA



The Érainn

The Forth Wave - The Érainn

Traditionally the **Érainn** were said to have arrived directly from Gaul rather than from Britain. If we separate the **Dáirine** from the **Érainn** the DNA evidence does seem to largely support this.

The major Érainn clans are:

- Eóganachta, Kings of Munster
- The Ulaid
- The Benntraighe

Yes, there are two separate DNA origins for the Eóganachta in Munster

In general, the Érainn migration to Ireland seems to have been spread out. The earliest must have been about **1,200 BC**, to about **600 BC**. Although the latter date is very rough as it is only based on when Haplogroup SNPs occurred. There probably were exceptions to this, most notably the Ulaid who may well have arrived much later as there are indications that they were part of the La Tène culture.

The rest of the **Érainn** are most likely to have come from Gaul. Professor O'Rahilly is probably correct when he asserts that the **Érainn** are the Fir Bolg of Ancient myth.

Starting around 1,200 BC the Belgic tribes pushed west and south from their original home on the Rhine, possibly under pressure from the Germanic tribes to their east. The territory of the Belgae according to the Romans just covered northern France and Belgium between the Seine and the Rhine which also corresponds to the nearest stretch of coastlines between Britain and the continent. However tribes that can be traced back to Belgic origin can also be found all along the Northern coast of France and even in the centre of France.

The Érainn

Clan / Group	Y-DNA Markers	Major Clan Names	Surnames
Eóganachta (Kings of Munster)	Irish Type II • R1b>>L21>DF13>FGC11134>>CTS4466	1) Eóganacht Áine 2) Eóganacht Glendamnach 3) Eóganacht Locha Léin 4) Eóganacht Raithlind	1) O'Kirby, O'Kirwick/Kerwick 2) O'Keeffe, 3) O'Moriarity, O'Donoghue 4) O'Mahony, O'Donoghue, O'Long + MacCarthy (grp A), O'Callaghan, O'Sullivan, McAuliffe
Ulaid	• R1b>>L21>DF13>L513>S5668>R-Z16340>>FGC9811 • R1b>>L21>DF13>L513>S5668>A7	Dál Fiatach Fir Manach Borderland Scots	McCaffrey, Clarke, Garvey, McGuire, Maguire
Benntraige	• R1b>>L21>DF13>FGC5494>Y9096>Y9091>FT183058> A7633	Uí Bairrche	Gorman, Cleary
	• R1b>>L21>DF13>FGC5494>A12897>A12910>BY70198>BY155978	Eóganachta	Mahony (Mainly Eóganachta)
	• R1b>>L21>DF13>FGC5494>FGC5561>A913 > A7607>BY124553	Osraighe	Cuffe (MacDhuibh)
	• R1b>>L21>DF13>FGC5494>FGC5561>FGC5495>FGC7448>FT46393>FGC35414>	Loígis	Moore - (Only some Benntraige - Mainly mixed Ciannachta and Cruithne)
	• R1b>>L21>DF13>FGC5494>FGC5561>FGC5495>FGC7448>FGC5496 > FGC5521 >Y18844> Y18846 > BY33481 > BY59055 >	Muintir Anghaile (Longford)	Farrell, Ferrell, Farris
	• R1b>>L21>DF13>FGC5494>FGC5561>FGC5495>FGC7448>FGC5496>PR1289/S1088>A194>CTS2457>	1) Bréifne/Connachta	1) Fitzpatrick, McDonnell
		2) O'Luinigh Sept (Tyrone)	2) Lunney
		3) McGiolla Seanain Sept (Cavan)	3) Nugent, McGing
		4) Fir Rois Uí Briúin Cualand	4) Cosgrave, Cosgrove, Coskery
		5) Éile	5) Corcoran (mainly Ciannachta)

The Érainn

The Eóganachta, Kings of Munster

- **R1b-L21> DF13>FGC11134 (age about 1,700 BC)**

The Eóganachta were a federation of tribes claiming a common lineage and spread throughout Munster. They have the DNA marker **CTS4466**, a subclade of **FGC11134**. This has been designated as Southern Irish or the Irish Type II subclade. It is the dominant Y-DNA SNP in Munster.

The age of the Y-DNA SNP **CTS4466** is estimated at about **1,200 BC** and probably evolved in Ireland

The major Clans of the Eóganachta were:

- **Eóganacht Chaisil**
- **Eóganacht Áine**
- **Eóganacht Glendamnach**
- **Eóganacht Locha Léin**
- **Eóganacht Raithlind**

The Y-DNA of the majority of people with the modern surnames of the Septs associated with these tribes has been found with the **CTS4466** DNA marker. However in the case of **Eóganacht Chaisil**, at least as many have been found with a different DNA marker; **FGC3213**, making them a tribe of mixed **Ciannachta** and **Eóganachta** descent.

Eóganacht Chaisil

Caissil, or Caisel, is a reference for Cashel, in County Tipperary where the **Eóganacht Chaisil's** power was cantered. The Mac Carthaigh (McCarthy) family was a chief sept of the Eóganachta Chaisil.

Eóganacht Áine

At the time of the Norman invasion the Eóghanacht Áine (Áine Cliach), were centred in the barony of Small County in east County Limerick. The O'Ciarmaic (O'Kirwick and Kirby) served as chiefs of the **Eóganacht Áine**

Eóganacht Glendamnach

Septs of the Eóganachta Glendamnach included Ó Caiomh (O'Keeffe). The O'Keeffe's held the southern half of Feara Muighe (barony of Fermoy) in east county Cork prior to the Norman invasion

Eóganacht Locha Léin

Locha Léin was the area around the Lakes of Killarney, in and near the barony of Magunihiy, in county Kerry. Ruling septs of **Eóganacht Locha Léin** included Úa Cathail (O'Cahill), Úa Muirheartaigh (O'Moriarity), and Úa Cerbail (O'Carroll) and Úa Donnchadha (O'Donoghue)

Eóganacht Raithlind

Raithlind is the area around Bandon, County Cork. Archaeologists believe that Garranes Ringfort in Templemartin parish, near Bandon, may have been **Rath Raithlind**, the royal seat of the **Eóganacht Raithlind**. Important Septs were the O Mathghamhna (O'Mahony), who gave their tribal name to the barony of Kinelmeaky and the Ua Donnchadha, (O'Donoghue) of the Cenél Láegaire who expanded westward into Bantry.

The Érainn

The Ulaid

- **R1b-L21> DF13>L513 (age about 1,500 BC)**

The Ulaid seem to have arrived in Ireland in separate waves, the earlier migration coming directly from the Continent but later migrations may well have arrived in Ireland and Britain at around the same time (I will expand on this when I discuss the Manapii and the Leginians).

Some of Scottish Border tribes also come from this group. Collectively, today's descendants of the Ulaid and the Border Scots in Ireland are often referred to as Scots-Irish or Ulster-Scots.

The ancient territory of Ulaid traditionally spanned the modern province of Ulster, excluding County Cavan, but including County Louth. But after the destruction of Eamhain Macha by the Three Collas in 332 AD, it was restricted to the territory east of the river Bann, Lough Neagh, and the Newry River.

The general scholarly consensus has been that the Ulaid were kin to the Érainn and the DNA evidence does show that they are from a different DNA group from the other Northern Irish tribes with Scottish links like the Dál Riata and the Northern Uí Néill, who I have labelled the Scoti.

The distinct DNA marker for the Ulaid, **R-L513**, also known as **R-DF1**, has an estimated age of about **2,500 BC**, but the most common subclade in Ireland, **R-Z16340** estimated age is **1,200 BC**, so they arrived in Ireland later than some of the other Érainn Tribes.

Given the prevalence of le Tène objects in the region dominated by the Ulaid I am inclined to think they were part of the le Tène culture, another reason to think they may have arrived much later than the other Érainn. They could even have arrived after the Dál Riata and the Northern Uí Néill or maybe were invited over by the Érainn to help fight the Scoti.

I estimate that the Ulaid arrived in Ireland in about the 7th or 6th Century BC. However Professor Dáithí Ó hÓgáin only places their rise to power in Ulster to the 1st Century BC, prior to that they were restricted to County Louth and South County Down.

This helps explain the fact that the dominant DNA in the northern part of Ireland is **M222**. The Ulaid may have started east of the river Bann, conquered most of Ulster from what later became the Northern Uí Néill, before eventually losing it to the Three Collas and retreating back into their heartland.

I have placed the Leginian Invasion in the 1st Century BC. I believe the Ulaid were also part of that invasion and took advantage of the disruption caused to expand their territory.

This makes the Ulaid both Érainn and Laigin. The Ulaid have a very interesting back-story and a prominent role in Ireland's pre-history, but to make their story as clear as possible I will split it into two parts. Here I will discuss their initial arrival in Ireland and then return to them when discussing the subsequent Laigin Invasion.

The Érainn

The Ulaid and the Manapii

- **R1b>>L21>DF13>L513>S5668>FGC9811**

The Manapii were an ancient tribe based in southeastern Ireland mentioned by Greek geographer Ptolemy in the 2nd century AD. The Manapii were known to have migrated from Leinster to Ulster in the early Christian era (dates unknown) where they were known as the Fir Managh (also Manaigh/Monaigh) and gave their name to Fermanagh.

The Maguire's of Fermanagh who are descended from the Fir Managh belong to the same **FGC9811** Haplogroup associated with the **Ulaoid**. This helps explain why the **Fir Managh** migrated to Ulster in the first place, to join their northern kin.

So the **Ulaoid** in Ireland should also include the **Manapii**.

According to scholar Patrick Sims-Williams, the name **Manapii** in P-Celtic became **Manakwī**, which came to be assimilated in the local Irish Q-Celtic dialect as **Manaig** or **Monaig**

The annals include a people called the Monaig in Ulaoid, but their exact territory is disputed. There are several different Monaigs:

- Monaigh Uladh, in the area of Downpatrick
- Monaich Ulad of Rusat
- Monaigh at Lough Erne, County Fermanagh
- Monaigh Aird, in County Down
- Cenél Maelche/Mailche in Antrim also known as 'Monach'
- Magh Monaigh;
- Monach-an-Dúin in Cath Monaigh, possibly in Iveagh, County Down.

The **Ulaoid** were a federation of different related Monaig Clans and Septs

The Érainn

Ulaid/Manapii Origins

Traditionally, the Manapii in Ireland have been linked to the Gaulish Menapii.

They were seafarers and traders who lived in the forests of the Rhine estuary on the North Sea, where they were part of the Belgae federation of Gaulish tribes. They established a series of trading settlements on both sides of the English Channel and both sides of the Irish Sea.

The **Menapii** were the major sea-going power among the Belgae. They were known to have established multiple trading ports both along both sides of the Channel and on both sides of the Irish Sea starting around the 6th Century BC.

Norman Mongan in his book 'The Menapia Quest' in 1995, written before the advent of Genetic Analysis, by painstaking detective work identified a series of Menapii trading settlements/ports in Britain and Ireland.

In Ireland:

- **Manapia** (Near Wexford Town)
- **Eblana** (Drumanagh, Loughshinny, County Dublin (**Druim Monach** – The ridge of the Monaig))
- **Isamnium** (near Dundalk, in the territory of the **Volunti**)
- **Ivernus**, the port of the Iverni

I have added the fourth trading post to Norman Mongan's first three mentioned above. As I mentioned previously when discussing the **Eóganachta**, there is a strong cluster of **L513 Y-DNA** (Menapii DNA) in Munster around Cork City,

In Britain:

- In **Dumnonii** (near Falmouth, Cornwall)
- **Menevia** (**Menapia**, later a Roman settlement in Pembrokeshire near to the port of Fishguard).
- **Mona** (Anglesey in Wales)
- **Monapia** (the Isle of Man)
- **Portus Setantiorum** (in the territory of the Setantii, near Fleetwood in Lancashire)
- **Votadini** (Their territory extended from the Firth of Forth to the River Tyne)

The **Votadini** are also the ancestors to a lot of the Border Scots who migrated to Ulster. They are also **R1b-L513** but belong to **R1b>L513>S5668>A7**, a different branch of **L513** to the Ulaid. Both branches split from **L513** about 1,100 BC

So it looks like the Menapii operated the first Dublin to Hollyhead and Rosslare to Fishguard Ferries.

Looking at the Manapii settlements; Cork, Wexford, Dundalk, Anglesey, the Isle of Man and the Dál gCais settlements; Dublin, Waterford, Limerick and Galway, I am struck to the resemblance to the Viking Settlements of later centuries and cannot but think that they might have been the Celtic equivalent of Vikings – Sea Raiders and Traders.

Finally, this all supports Professor O'Rahilly's hypothesis that the Ulaid were Belgic in Origin

The Érainn

The Benntraige

- **R1b-L21> DF13>FGC5494 (age about 2,000 BC)**

The Coriondi were a people of early Ireland, referred to in Ptolemy's 2nd century Geography as living in south-east Leinster. Eoin MacNeill identified another later Irish group, the Coraind, in the Boyne valley, as possibly the same people.

O'Rahilly identified the Coriondi as the ancestors of the **Benntraige** and places them in an area roughly corresponding to the Barony of Bantry in Wexford. The Gaelic for Bantry is *Beanntraí*, meaning 'place of Beann's people', so the area was named after the tribe.

There is a more famous Bantry in Ireland, in Cork, home to the **Eóganacht Raithlind** and the O'Mathghamhna (O'Mahony) Sept. While the majority of O'Mahony Y-DNA found online is **Eóganachta CTS4466**, there is also a grouping of **FGC5494** Y-DNA. This suggests that the **Benntraige** were originally there as well.

Other **R-FGC5494** related Septs in Ireland are

- A linked sub-group with a common **R- CTS2457 SNP** is mainly in Breifne but were said to have originated in Tyrone. It includes Fitzpatrick's, McDonnell's, the O'Luinigh Sept (Lunney), and the McGiolla Seanain Sept (Nugent, McGing).
- In Longford, the O'Farrell's of **the Muintir Anghaile**
- In Louth we have the **Fir Rois** (O'Cosgraigh, Cosgrove, Coskery)
- In Wicklow the **Uí Briúin Cualand** (Cosgrove, Cosgrave)
- In Laois, the **O'Moores** of the **Loígis**, who are of mainly mixed Ciannachta and Cruithne DNA
- In Kilkenny, the Cuffe (MacDhuibh) a sept of the **Osraighe**
- In Carlow, the **Uí Bairrche** (Gorman, Cleary), the **Uí Bairrche** were of mixed **Benntraige** and **Laigin** DNA.
- In Offaly/Tipperary we have the **Éile** who were mainly of Ciannachta DNA, but includes Corcoran's who were **R-FGC5494**

There is one more:

- **R1b>>L21>DF13>FGC5494>>A1506**

This Y-DNA are linked to the Mac Giolla Phádraig (Fitzpatrick), Brennan, Dooley and Hennessey Septs. These are part of the **Osraighe**, the **Éile** and the **Uí Failghe** and represent a greater **Osraighe** if you like, running from the **Benntraige** territory to the Shannon.

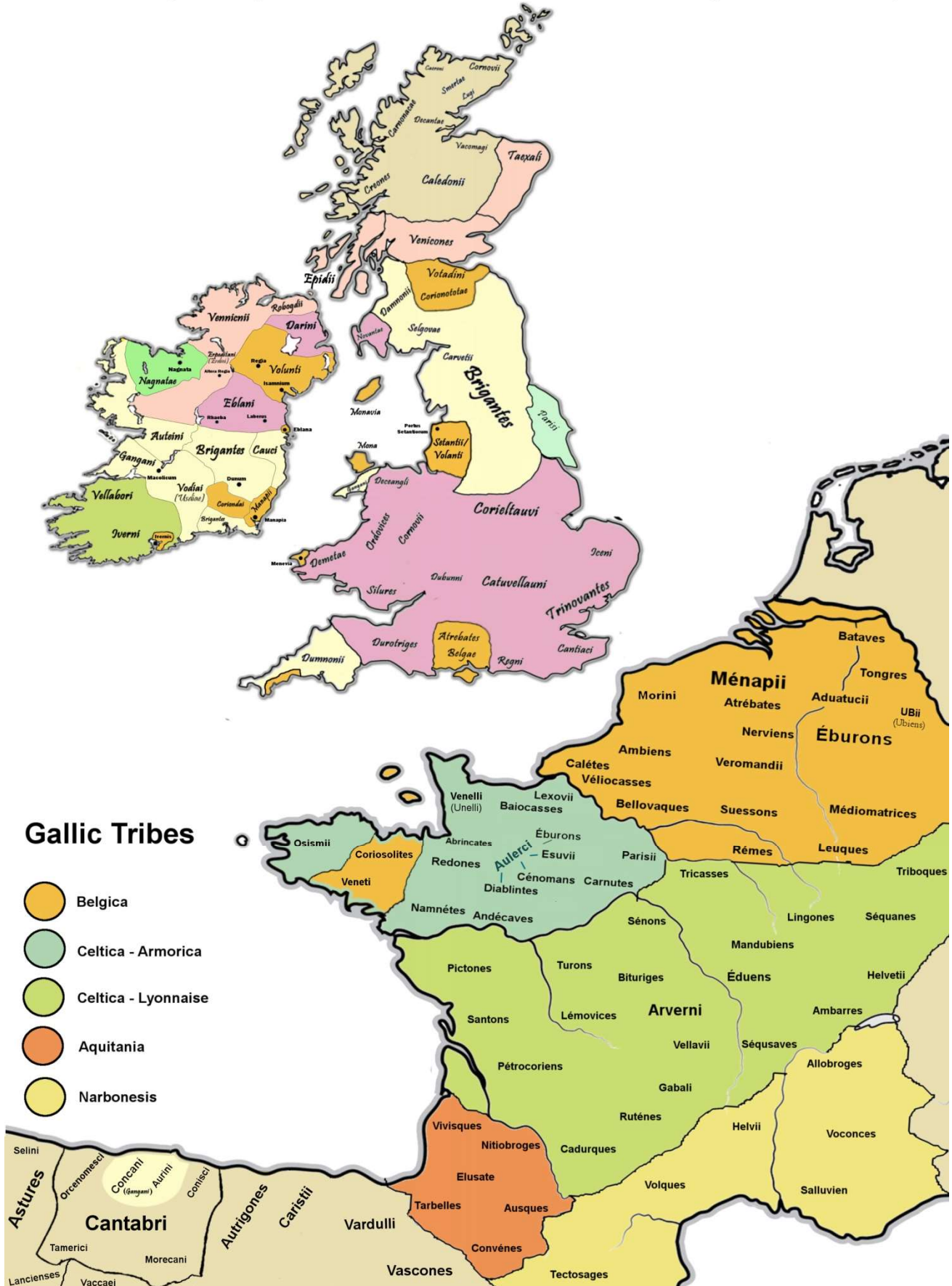
Traditionally **Osraighe**, anglicized as Ossory, was an Irish kingdom comprising what is now County Kilkenny and western County Laois, corresponding to the Diocese of Ossory; it looks like it may have been larger than that initially. It existed from around the first century until the Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12th century. It was ruled by the Dál Birn dynasty, whose medieval descendants assumed the surname Mac Giolla Phádraig.

However the estimated age for **SNP R-A1506** is **550 AD** and work by the Fitzpatrick's FYDA Group strongly indicates that they are most likely to have arrived in Ireland as part of the Norman Invasion.

Like the **Ulaoid** in Ulster, the rise of the **Osraighe** coincides with the Laigin Invasion, so one way or another, we have to put **Osraighe** to one side for the moment.

The Érainn

Ptolemy's Map of Hibernia, Britannia and Gaul (Circa 140 AD)



The Érainn

The Menapii and the Coriondi Alliance

The name Coriondi takes its name from the stem *corio, meaning 'army' or 'troop of warriors', it also occurs in Gaulish and Brittonic tribal names such as the **Coriosolites** and the **Corionototae**. In Britain, the Corionototae, known from an inscription in Hexham, Northumberland, and the town of Corinion, the Brittonic name for Cirencester, in Gloucestershire, the tribal capital of the Dobunni, Eoin MacNeill also tentatively linked the Coriondi with the **Atrebates** in England based on Ogham Stones found there.

A recent book, *The Tribe Within* (2020) by Anthony Murphy Barrett contains Y-DNA evidence that links **R1b-L513** to the **Veneti** tribe of Armorica. He does not seem to have made the Menapii connection and links them to the Venii in Ireland instead.

The **Coriosolites** are in Armorica, right next to the **Veneti**.

Immediately south of the **Menapii** in Belgic Gaul were the **Atrebates**.

From about the 6th century BC The Menapii and related Belgic tribes had spread themselves along the English Channel on both sides. These Belgae are associated with the **Menapii** and were known to have occupied the area around the Isle of Wight in England. Their principal town was called Venta, later called **Venta Belgarum** by the Romans (Modern Winchester). Immediately above them were the **Atrebates**.

In Britain, the **Corionototae** were on the Scottish borders. Immediately above the Corionototae were the **Votadini**, who later become known as the **Manaw Gododdin**, so the **Votadini** were **Menapii** as well. Not much is known about the **Corionototae** but because of their territory, they were assumed to be a sub-sept of the Brigantes, however I think they were allies to the **Votadini**, and they were both allies to the **Brigantes**.

The territory of the **Votadini** was in what is now south-east Scotland and north-east England, extending from the Firth of Forth and around modern Stirling to the River Tyne, including at its peak what are now the Falkirk, Lothian and Borders regions and Northumberland. Many of the Border Scots who became the Scots-Irish came from there and carried additional **R-L513** into Ulster. They also carried **R-FGC5494**. For example, people from Northern Ireland with the Scottish surname Maxwell are heavily **R-FGC5494**

In each case we have the **Menapii** and the **Coriondi** living beside each other, an alliance that seems to have lasted centuries and over 3 countries, Gaul, Britain and Ireland. The Menapii in Ireland are probably descended from the Menapii in Gaul, but some of them may have come from their existing British settlements.

In each case the **Coriondi** seem to be guarding the **Menapii** flanks. To put it another way, the **Coriondi** were the Marines to the **Menapii** sailors. A suitable occupation for a 'troop of warriors'.

Where possible the Menapii seems to like Islands as bases, The Isle of Wight, Channel Islands, Anglesey, The Isle of Man, and Great Island in Cork. To this we may probably add Bere and Whiddy Islands in Bantry Bay.

In the *Sailing Directions for Ireland*, issued by the United States Naval Oceanographic Office in 1962, we are told the following about Bantry Bay: ...*The bay is easy of access, free from dangers in the fairway, and with scarcely any current. ... Sheltered anchorage can be taken by the deepest draft vessels in Bear Haven off the northern shore, and in Glengarriff and Whiddy Harbors near the head of the bay. (USNOO 141-142)*

This is the reason why the Ulaid and the Benntraighe were probably there in the first place, safe anchorage for their fleet.

The Érainn

It also explains how the **Benntraige** ended up in Tyrone. The Manapii were said to have moved to Ulster in the early Christian era, where they became known as **Fir Managh**. It makes sense that they moved to join the rest of their Manapii kin in Ulaid, it looks like a lot of the **Benntraige** moved with them, continuing to protect the flank of the **Fir Managh** and occupying part of Tyrone. The subsequent rise of the Northern Uí Néill pushed them into Breifne.

One further link between the **Ulaid** and the **Benntraige** that was highlighted by the Fitzpatrick's FYDA Group was the Y-DNA diversity within people with the Fitzpatrick surname.

While the majority of people were **R-FGC5494**, by aligning the results of the DNA study with historical records and genealogies they were able to define the larger genetic groups on the project by geographic location.

In **Bréifne**, while the majority were **R-FGC5494**, no less than three sub-Septs contained **R-L513 Ulaid** Y-DNA. One of those Septs is also associated with the surname Maguire. Another **Bréifne** sub-sept also contained **R-FGC11134 Eóghanachta** Y-DNA.

- The **Ulaid Y-DNA** was probably picked up over their long association.
- The **Eóghanachta Y-DNA** picked up while the **Benntraige** were still in Wexford and Cork.

Remember what I said when discussing Clans and Septs; The vast majority of Gaelic Irish surnames were created during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Having the same surname does not guarantee that you will have the same Y-DNA lineage. In the FamilyTreeDNA Group Projects the Y-DNA lineage is assigned based on having a large group of people with the same surnames having similar Y-DNA profiles, not on everybody having the same profile. Most groups have some people with different Y-DNA profiles.

The fact that three different Fitzpatrick Septs in **Bréifne** also contains a significant number of people with **Ulaid Y-DNA** is yet another indication of their close relationship.

The Dál Riata

The Dál Riata were not considered as part of the **Ciannachta** or **Eóganachta**, but part of the group I have identified as **Scoti**

However they probably arrived in Ireland much earlier than the rest of the Scoti, given the relatively short distance between Antrim and Argyle in Scotland. So I have included them on the map of Ireland for approximately 1000 BC, but I will discuss them as part of the Scoti.

The Érainn

Ptolemy's Tribes and their Origins

The Eóganachta are the Iverni and maybe the Vellaboroi are as well.

Iverni and **Érainn** are the same name, mutated over time. The **Iverni** must be the **Eóganachta**, who became the dominant power in Munster.

We do not know where they came from but I do have a suggestion.

The **Iverni** may be a branch of a major Gaulish Tribe called the **Arverni**.

Although known a Gaulish Tribe, the **Arverni** were said to be Belgae in origin. Sometime between the 1,200 BC and 800 BC, the Arverni are said to have left Germany and settled a territory in the heartland of Gaul. Some of them may well have migrated to Ireland instead during the same period.

The Arverni dwelled in the modern Auvergne region (which was named after them) during the Iron Age and the Roman period. The **Arverni** were formed as a confederation of Gaulish tribes, including the **Vellavi**, whom Strabo says were once a part of the Arverni. Before the arrival of the Romans, they were very powerful, contesting with the Aedui for nominal over lordship of all of the Gaulish tribes.

So we have 2 related tribes, the **Iverni** and the **Vellaboroi** in Ireland and we have 2 other related Belgic tribes, the **Arverni** and the **Vellavi** who left their homeland sometime between 1,200 BC and 700 BC.

There is a strong cluster of **L513 Y-DNA** (Menapii DNA) in Munster around Cork City, which has been associated with the settlement called **Ivernis** by Ptolemy. This Cluster is not associated with any particular Clan but is distributed among the major Clans of the Eóganachta. The Menapii probably provided the transport for the Arverni and Vellavi and in return set up **Ivernis** as a trading outpost protected by the **Arverni**. It was probably their first trading post in Ireland and when later migrations of the **Ulaid** came to Ireland, they were welcomed as allies of the **Eóganachta**.

I feel that this is not a bad fit. Remember all these tribal names are Latin translations of Greek names based on the descriptions of Roman and Greek traveller and traders, not necessarily what the tribes called themselves.

The Ulaid are the Voluntii and the Manapii

Ptolemy's **Voluntii** correspond to the group known in Irish as the **Ulaid**, after whom the whole province of Ulster came to be named.

The Y-DNA results show that **Ulaid** are the same people known as the **Menapii**, a major Belgic Tribe that fought against Julius Caesar.

An 1870 book By Charles Hardwick - The Early Inhabitants of Lancashire and the Neighbouring Counties, and Remains of their Mythology and Local Nomenclature – has the following passage:

*The country of the Brigantes is the term given by the Roman historians to that part of England which lies north of the Humber and the Mersey, and includes the lesser tribes named the **Volantii** and the **Setantii**, or **Sistiintii**, which occupied the western or Lancashire coast and perhaps that of Cumberland.*

The Érainn

From: Leaves from a Sketchbook: Lancaster." Illustrated London News 53 (1868)

*The site, on the edge of a great forest and on the bank of the river Lune, or Lone, a name derived from Lug-avon, meaning "a stream of water," is very likely to have been chosen for a town of the Setantii, or Sistiintii, the Celtic inhabitants of North Lancashire Another people, the Volantii, dwelt in Westmorland and on the northern shore of Morecambe Bay. The Brigantes of Yorkshire, a stronger nation, came over the hills from the eastern country and subdued both the **Volantii** and the **Sistiintii**.*

The **Volantii** never made it into Ptolemy's Geography of Britain but the **Setantii** did. Their territories seem to overlap so they may have been a small tribal confederation, alternatively they may have just been the one tribe given separate names by different merchants when their information was passed on to Roman and Greek cartographers.

Famously, Sétanta is the birth name of Cúchulain, the hero of the Tain Bo Cuailnge and legendary hero of the Ulaid. This in turn suggests that the Setantii may have been present on both the Ulster and Lancastrian seaboards of the Irish Sea and was a seafaring group (The name Setantii means "dwellers in the country of water").

This is supported by Ptolemy's observation that the tribe possessed the only pre-Roman port on the western coast of Britain at Portus Setantiorum. This port is now generally thought to have been situated off Rossall Point near present-day Fleetwood at the mouth of the river Wyre.

The Benntraige are the Coriondi

O'Rahilly stated:

Another non-Laiginian tribe in Co. Wexford was the Benntraige, who have given their name to the barony of Bantry, lying between the Barrow and the Slaney ... It seems probable that the Benntraige were Érainn ... Perhaps we might regard the Benntraige of Co. Wexford as a remnant of the tribe that Ptolemy calls the Coriondi. (O'Rahilly 38-39)

The other Benntraige septs, in Bantry County Cork, In Wicklow and Louth were too small to attract Ptolemy attention and the merchants and sailors reports he based his work on probably thought that they were part of the Voluntii and the Manapii.

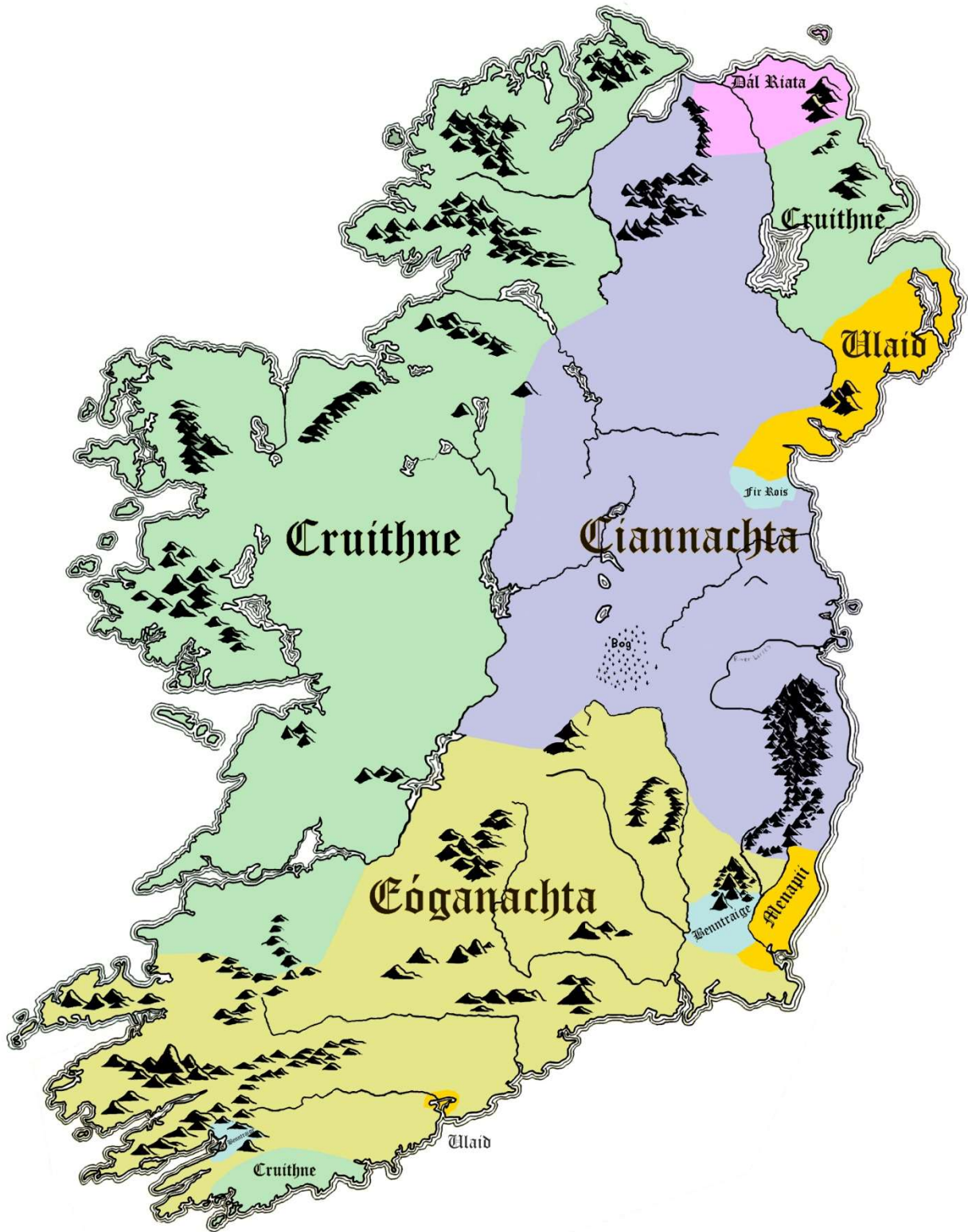
Conclusion

At the end of the Érainn migrations Ireland looked as follows:

- The Ciannachta – Dominant in north Leinster and Ulster west of the Bann
- The Eóganachta – Dominant in the south of Ireland
- The Ulaid – Dominant in North Louth and South Down, but geographically compact. Probably trading posts in Cork, Wexford and Drumanagh (North County Dublin)
- The Benntraige – adjacent to the Ulaid territories
- The Cruithne – Dominant in Connacht, strong in Ulster, some presence in all of Ireland.

The Érainn

Ireland Around 1000 B.C.



The Scoti

The Fifth Wave – The Scoti

In the Book of Invasions (*Lebor Gabála Éirenn*), the Tuatha Dé Danann was the name given to the tribes that fought the Fir Bolg for the ownership of Ireland. They were supposed to possess supernatural powers. The High Kingship is established by the Fir Bolg, and their nine kings are succeeded by a sequence of nine kings of the Tuatha Dé Danann.

If the **Fir Bolg** are the **Érainn**, then the **Tuatha Dé Danann** represent the **Scoti**, the next group of Celts to migrate to Ireland. The **Scoti** were the term the Romans used for the northern Irish tribes who raided their British provinces (originally just the Dál Riata, but over time it became applied to all Irish and Scottish Celts) and it seemed appropriate to use here considering that the DNA evidence shows that they all have Brythonic Celtic Scottish roots.

I believe that the myths of the Tuatha Dé Danann and the Fir Bolg and the legends of **Conn Céchtach** and **Mug Nuadat** are two variants of the same struggle for Ireland.

In the Book of Invasions, the **Tuatha Dé Danann** are the surviving Nemedians who went "into the north of the world" (i.e. Scotland) and later when Íth the Milesian travels to Ireland he goes to **Aileach Néit** near Lough Foyle in Donegal to meet Ireland's three kings.

The Tuatha Dé Danann's two battles of Magh Tuireadh (in Mayo and in Sligo) represents the first major expansion of the Connachta as they expanded out of their new west Ulster heartland.

The first battle was against the **Fir Bolg**, the second against the **Fomorians**.

The Fomorians were a supernatural race that are often portrayed as hostile and monstrous beings, but later intermarried with the Tuatha Dé Danann and just became bad in-laws. They are enemies of Ireland's first settlers and opponents of the Tuatha Dé Danann, but not, curiously enough, of the Fir Bolg.

The **Fomorians** most likely represent the blended **Cruithne/ Darini** clans, who lived in peaceful coexistence with the **Érainn** and fought alongside them against the new invaders, the **Scoti**.

It also sets the stage for the later struggle between the Connachta and the Ulaid for control of mid-Ulster.

This is the first wave I would designate as more an 'invasion' rather than a migration.

The **Scoti** who came via Scotland were from the newer La Tène culture. Based on La Tène artefacts found they may have arrived in Ireland about **450 BC**. This migration/invasion may have been prompted by pressure from the Brigantes and their allies the Menapii in northern Britain.

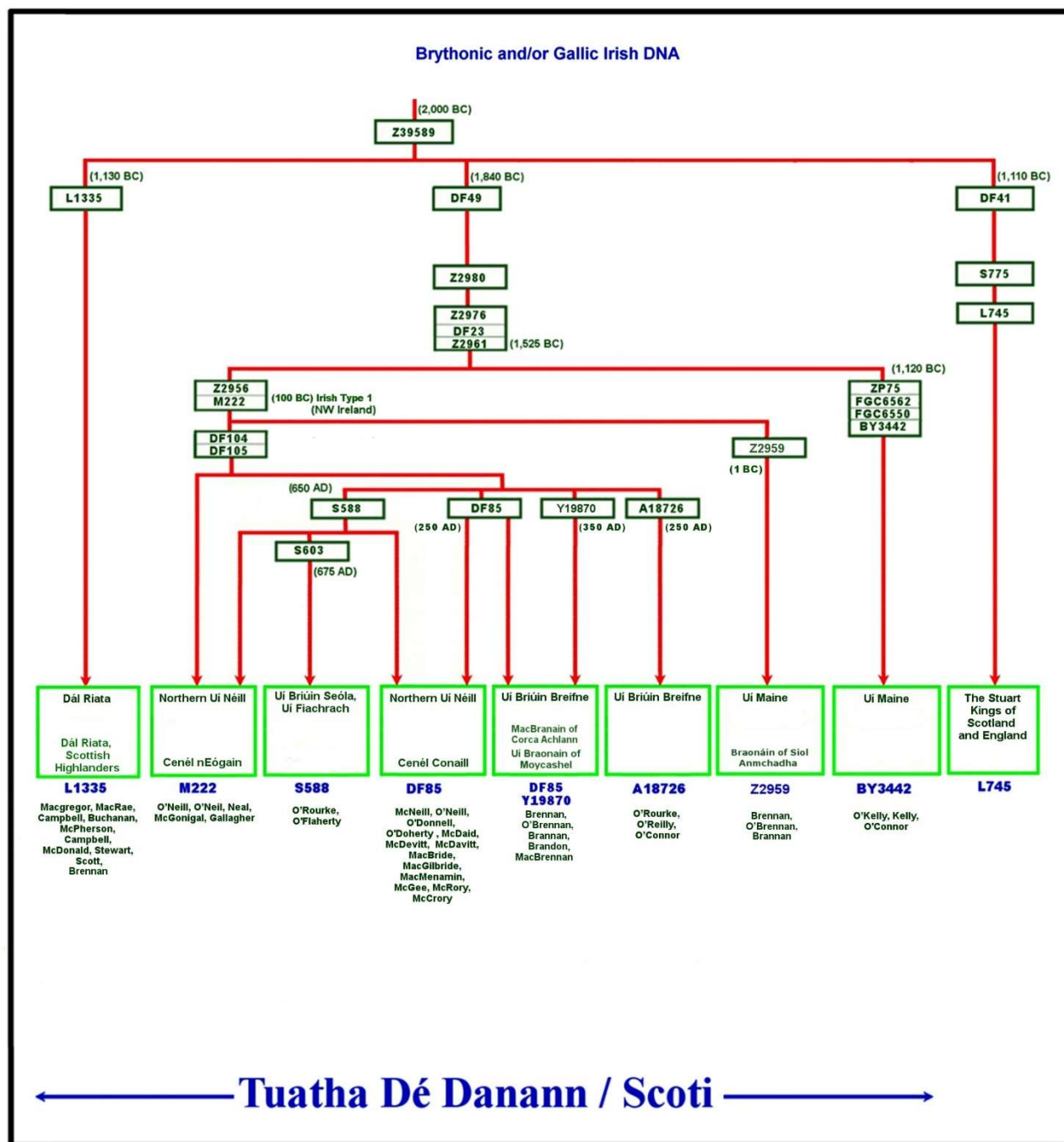
The Brigantes rose to power in northern Britain from about **550 BC**, the burning of a hill fort in Castle Hill in Huddersfield in **430 BC** is thought to have been done as part of their conquest. In the end their territory is believed to have included all of the north of modern England except Humberside and including the Scottish border areas up to the Antonine Wall.

While the Ulaid were probably La Tène as well, their settlements were small and geographically compact, trading posts as much as anything else. It was the Scoti that really brought Iron Age technology and weaponry to Bronze Age Ireland. Remember I said earlier that the Tuatha Dé Danann were supposed to possess supernatural powers.

I am reminded of an old Isaac Asimov quote.

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

The Scoti



The Scoti

I have identified the following Tribes as the Scoti

The Tuatha Dé Danann (Scoti)			
Clan / Group	Y-DNA Markers	Major Clan Names	Surnames
Dál Riata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b >>L21>DF13>Z39589>L1335 	Dál Riata Also: Scottish Highlanders	Macgregor, MacRae, Campbell, Buchanan, McPherson, Campbell, McDonald, Stewart, Scott
Connachta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b >>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>ZP75>BY3442 	Uí Maine	O'Kelly, Kelly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>Z2956>M222>DF105> R1b>>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>Z2956>M222>DF105>S588 	Cenél nEógain Northern Uí Néill	O'Neill, O'Neil, Neal, McGonigal, Gallagher
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>Z2956>M222>DF105>DF85 	Cenél Conaill	McNeill, O'Neill, O'Donnell, O'Doherty, McDaid, McDevitt, McDavitt, MacBride, MacGilbride, MacMenamin, McGee, McRory, McCrory
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>Z2956>M222>DF105>A18726 	Uí Briúin Breifne	O'Rourke, O'Reilly, O'Connor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>Z2956>M222>DF105>S588>S603 	Uí Briúin Seóla. Uí Fiachrach	O'Rourke, O'Flaherty
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>Z2956>M222 > Z2959 > Z46375 > BY35297 > FGC4087 > A725 	MacBranain of Corca Achlann Uí Maine	Brennan, O'Brennan, MacBrennan, Brannan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>Z2956>M222>DF105 > Y19870 > BY13838 R1b>>L21>DF13>Z39589>DF49>>Z2961>Z2956>M222>DF105>DF85 	Uí Braonain of Moycashel Uí Briúin Breifne	Brennan, O'Brennan, Brannan, Brandon

The Scoti

R1b-L21>DF13>Z39589 (age about 2,100 BC)

This is the major Haplogroup for the northern half of Ireland. It also the haplogroup from which the Stuart Kings of Scotland are descended. Within Ireland, the major subclades are:

- The Dál Riata - **R1b-L21>DF13>Z39589 >L371**
- The Connachta- **R1b-L21>DF13>Z39589 >DF49**

The Dál Riata

R1b-L21>DF13>Z39589 >L371 (age about 1,800 BC)

Irish Dál Riata was a well-defined petty kingdom that consisted of the coastal part of County Antrim from modern Bushmills to Glenarm. Its boundaries consisted of the Irish Sea, the River Bush from Bushmills to a little south-east of Armoy and the Antrim plateau watershed from there to Glenarm.

In the 5th Century AD it began to spread into Scotland. At its height in the 6th and 7th centuries, it covered what is now Argyll ("Coast of the Gaels") in Scotland and part of County Antrim in Northern Ireland. After a period of expansion, Dál Riata eventually became associated with the Gaelic Kingdom of Alba.

They probably arrived in Ireland much earlier than the Connachta, given the relatively short distance between Antrim and Argyle in Scotland.

The Connachta

R1b-L21>DF13>Z39589 >DF49 (age about 1,800 BC)

The DNA evidence does not support a link to **DF27** Y-DNA. So, the Connachta, who T.F. O'Rahilly named as the one of the leaders of the Goidelic invasion predate the Goidelic arrival in Ireland by hundreds of years.

This can be dismissed for non-DNA related reasons as well. The Ulster Cycle of Irish mythology and legend, describes how the Ulaid are in conflict with the Connachta led by their queen, Medb and her husband Ailill mac Máta and this is set at least 200 years before the Goidelic invasion.

The Northern Uí Néill, the Uí Briúin and the Uí Maine all belong to this subclade. I have referred to them collectively as the **Connachta**.

We do know that the Uí Briúin and the Uí Maine became prominent Clans in Connacht and were known as Connachta. By the DNA we know that Uí Briúin and the Uí Néill clans of Cenél nEógain and Cenél Conaill are very closely related, the **DF105** subclade they all share has an estimated age of about **400 AD**.

The Scoti

The Connachta (continued)

The **Connachta** are a group of medieval Irish dynasties who claimed descent from the legendary High King Conn Cétchathach (Conn of the Hundred Battles) and were said to be descended from half-brothers of Niall of the Nine Hostages.

However, by the DNA, we know that:

After **R-DF23 (age about 1,600 BC)** they split into 2 subclades

- The Uí Maine split off to its one subclade **R-ZP75 (age about 1,100 BC)**
- And the Northern Uí Néill and the Uí Briúin to subclade **R-Z2956 (age about 1,500 BC)**
- Much further down from **R-Z2956** is the **R-M222 (age about 100 BC)** subclade.

The **R-M222** branch of the Y-DNA tree has been designated as Northwestern Irish or the Irish Type I subclade. It is the dominant Y-DNA SNP for the northern half of Ireland and is heavily linked to the Uí Néill dynasty. It was originally reported in the media as the 'Niall of the Nine Hostages' DNA marker. However the DNA evidence shows they existed as a group at least 500 years before Niall's birth.

If the split happened before they came to Ireland, then the next cut off is **M222**, which almost definitely did happen in Ireland, this gives a window of after **1,100 BC** and before **100 BC**.

Quickly explaining these ages: **R-M222's** paternal line was formed when it branched off from the ancestor **R-Z2965** around **1500 BC**. However, the man who is the most recent common ancestor of this line is estimated to have been born around **100 BC**, which is where we get split off age from.

If the split in **DF23** happened in Ireland and would give a time for their arrival in Ireland to after **1,600 BC** and probably no later than **1,100 BC**.

There are many famous surnames associated with Connachta Y-DNA – O'Neill, O'Donnell, O'Rourke, O'Kelly to name just a few.

My own surname, Sharkey, is reputed to have come from the O'Neill's and my Y-DNA is in fact **R-M222**, so we are connected. But the Sharkey is only the 394th most common in Ireland and there are only 2 other Sharkeys on Family Tree DNA I found that did a deep dive into their DNA (also M222), so I did not put them into my charts.

My paternal grandmother was a Brennan, which is the 22nd most common in Ireland and they also number among the Connachta, but only sometimes. They are worth looking at because it both highlights the limitations of, and the fascination of, looking at Y-DNA.

The Brennan's

There are four septs of the Ó Braonáin clan in the country, located in Kilkenny, Galway, Westmeath and Kerry. There was also a sept of Mac Branáin in Roscommon, and Ó Branáin in counties Fermanagh and Monaghan, whose name was also Anglicised to Brennan. Today the name is most numerous in counties Kilkenny and Sligo.

- **County Westmeath** – Cenel nÉnna – Uí Braonain of Moycastle - Uí Briuin sept
- **County Roscommon** – MacBranáin of Corca Achlann - an Uí Briuin sept
- **County Longford/Galway** – Braonáin of Siol Anmchadha – an Uí Maine sept
- **County Kilkenny** - Braonáin (O'Brennan) of Uí Duach (Idough) - Ossory
- **County Kerry** - Braonáin of Dunkerron

The Scoti

There is a Brennan Surname Project on Family Tree DNA, it has 145 members, but only 82 have DNA results on-line. If we remove the people who are only tested to **R-M269** which is too high a level to compare DNA and we remove people who have non-Brennan related surnames, e.g. O'Carroll, Butler, Bolger, etc, we are left with just 24 records. Which is too small a number to be making definitive claims on, but the results are striking, nevertheless.

There is a distinct split between the Brennan's of Kilkenny and the rest.

The Brennan's in Kilkenny all belong to **R-L21>DF13>FGC5494>>A1506** Which is also associated with the Fitzpatrick's in Kilkenny.

Fitzpatrick's FYDNA Group has done a lot of work on this.

***Origins in Ireland after the Norman invasion** - The Fitzpatrick clans of J-M172>>FTA78391 and R-FGC5494>>A1506>>A1488 are jointly registered with the Clans of Ireland as Fitzpatrick of Ossory. These appear to have their J-M172>>FTA78391 has the most robust pedigree links to the Barons of Upper Ossory of any Fitzpatrick clan, whereas R-FGC5494>>A1506>>A1488 is likely to include descendants of a lineage of Upper Ossory that included Mac Costigan and Mac Giolla Phádraig clerics. Based on ancient DNA samples from modern-day France and Sweden, as well as surname associations, the pre-Irish origins of haplotype A1488 appears to have been among Viking and, later, Norman families.*

There is a robust narrative regarding some close genetic cousins of A1488 Fitzpatrick – those of Branán-surnames who are haplotype FGC5494>BY140757, who probably descend from the de Braham family of Norfolk, that had members (such as Robert de Braham, Sheriff of Kilkenny ca. 1250 AD) arrive in Ireland as part of the de Clare retinue.

In fact the non-Brennan surnames in the Brennan FYDNA Group include 6 Fitzpatricks and a Costigan, all Osraighe related.

Also probably associated with the group are the one **Dál gCais** and the one **Eóganachta** related Brennans I found. The **Dál gCais** originally founded Osraighe (Ossory) and the **Eóganachta** ruled it before it was Ossory and ruled Ossory itself in the 5th and 6th centuries. However the **Eóganachta** Brennan could be related to Braonáin of Dunkerron in Kerry, who were followers of O'Sullivan Mor of the **Eóganacht Chaisil**.

These Brennans seem to have no link with the rest, apart for the name itself. This probably means that the surname evolved independently from each other.

This accounts for 9 of the records, the remaining 15 are split evenly 3 ways.

- Iron Age (Cruithne)
- Connachta
- Dál Riata

So the Dál Riata, who arrived first of the Scoti, probably took over a Cruithne sept and became a mixed sept or even septs. With the arrival of the Connachta, the Uí Maine in turn, took them over. And finally when the Uí Briuin evolved they also took over a mixed sept. None of this has to have been done violently, it could have happened peacefully over time.

However it would explain why some of the Brennan's are associated with the Uí Maine and some with the Uí Briuin.

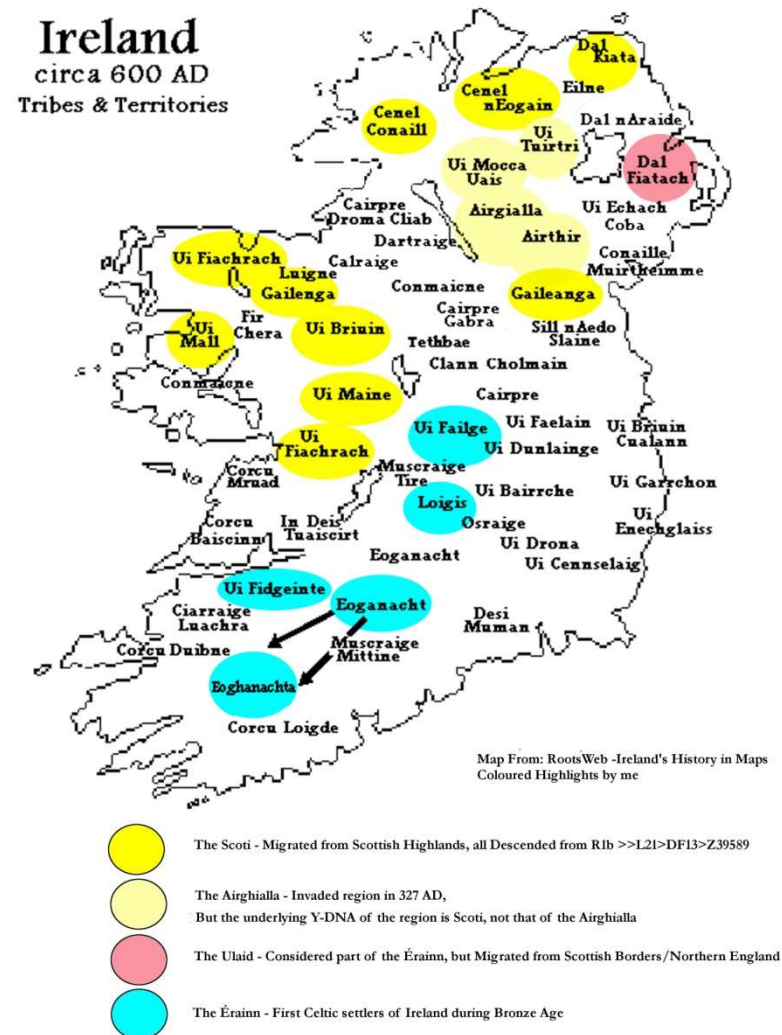
Interpreting Y-DNA is fraught with difficulties. We almost need a government sponsored project to gather about 100 Y-DNA deep dives per surname, but the reward is that it could give us considerable insight into Ireland's pre-history.

The Scoti

Ptolemy's Ireland by Sean Duffy (2000) - showing le Tène objects prevalent area.

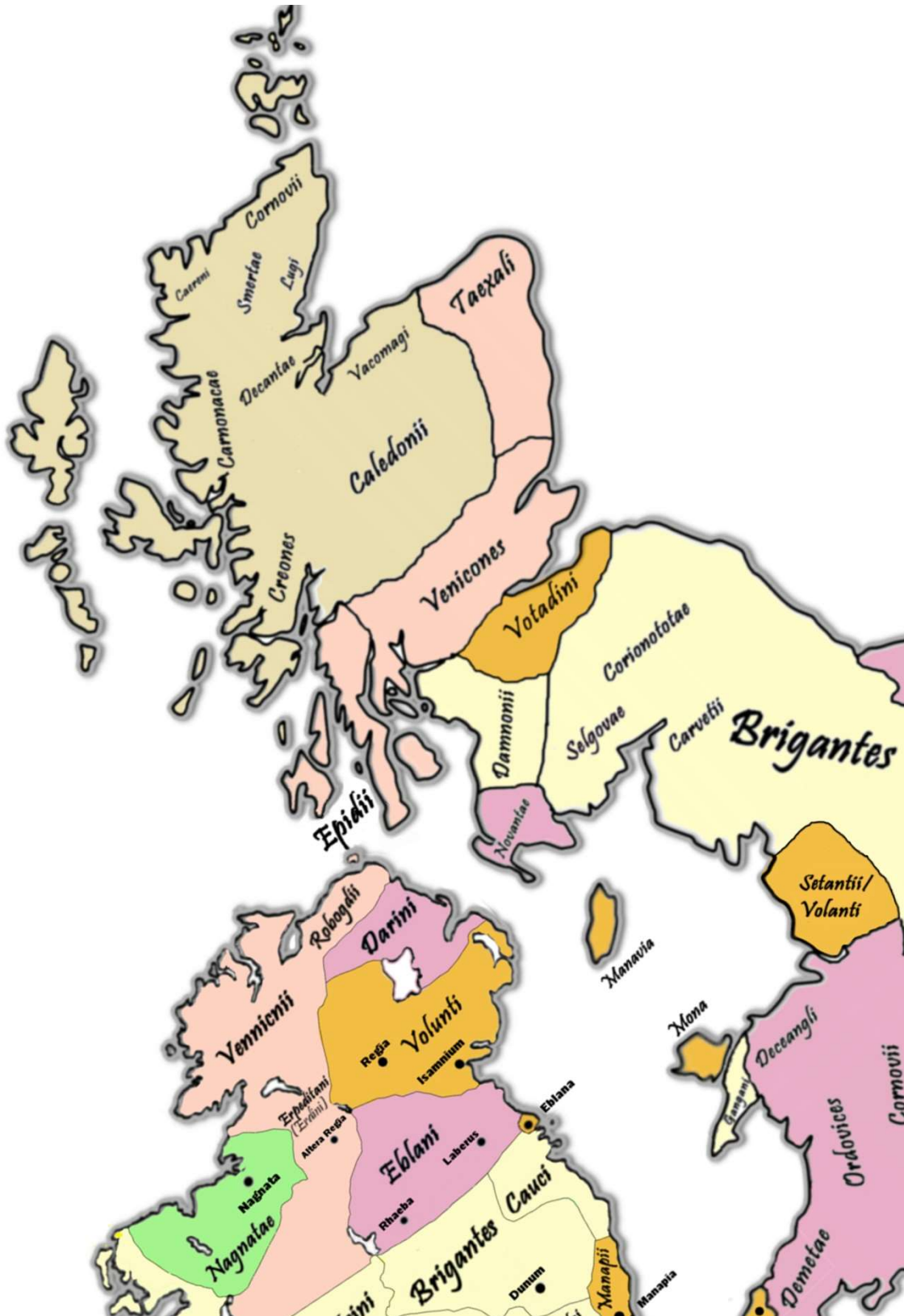


Map showing Clans/Septs I have associated with the Scoti and the Érainn



The Scoti

To help visualize the links between Ireland and Scotland I have made the following map of Ptolemy's tribes, rotated slightly to highlight the Scotland/Ireland dynamic.



The Scoti

Ptolemy's Tribes and their Origins

The Dál Riata are the Robogdii

T. F. O'Rahilly believed that Robogdii was a corruption of Redodii.

Robogdii: Their position corresponds to that of the Dál Riata (Mod. Ir. Dál Riada) of historical times; these took their name from a mythical ancestor Riata (otherwise Eochu Riata, or Cairbre Ríghfota), who's name would go back to Rēdodios. Ptolemy's text is so liable to corruption that it is not inconceivable that his Ροβογδιοι [Rhubogdioi] is to be amended to Ρειδοδιοι [Rheidodioi].

*Thus we have Eochu Riata, eponym of the Dál Riata, whose epithet I interpret as meaning 'travelling (on horseback, or in a chariot)', Celt. *Rēdodios, IE root reidh-. So the cognate Gaulish tribal name Rēdones (preserved in the place-name 'Rennes'), meaning 'riders on horseback, travellers in chariots', probably implies the existence of a singular Rēdū as a name for the Otherworld-deity. (O'Rahilly 6-7, 295)*

At its height in the 6th and 7th centuries the kingdom of the Dál Riata encompassed the western seaboard of Scotland and the north-eastern corner of Ireland, on each side of the North Channel, covering what is now Argyll in Scotland and Antrim in Ireland.

Ptolemy identified the tribe in the Argyll area as the Epidii. The name *Epidii* has as its root *epos*, meaning horse. In Gaelic, the word "*reti* and later *riata*, normally denotes a riding horse. This is significant because *Reti* is the root word of Dalriada. (Dal Reti -> Dal Riata -> Dalriada)

So I propose that the Dál Riata were the Epidii who came from Argyle to Antrim/North Down. Given the short distance between Antrim and Argyle interchange between the two communities would have been commonplace.

I have seen it suggested that the Dál Riata invaded Argyle in the 5th Century to take advantage of a weakened Epidii, who were under pressure from the Picts at the same time. The Dál Riata could just as easily have come to the aid of their kin and strengthened an already existing base in Scotland,

It was the Dál Riata who were first described by the Romans as the Scoti. Later, it came to refer to all Gaels, whether from Ireland or elsewhere

Due to the close proximity of the Dál Riata and the Epidii, the Dál Riata probably arrived in Ulster much earlier to the rest of the Scoti and their immigration may have been more peaceful than the arrival of the Connachta.

The Connachta are the Vennicii

The Connachta in Donegal and Derry have to be the Vennicii.

In Ptolemy's Tribes of Ireland (revised) by Martin Counihan, he offered the following opinion of the Vennicii

The name of the Vennicii, living in the northernmost part of Ireland, is essentially the same as that of the Venicones, a tribe whom Ptolemy listed in the region of Fife on the east coast of Scotland. Both names are similar to a Gaulish word, uenicos, "clan member". Vennicii would simply mean something like "the tribespeople" or "the family".

We now know that the Connachta and the Dál Riata are both related. The territories of the Epidii and Venicones in Scotland are adjacent to each other.

The Clan of the Stuart Kings of Scotland's traditional homeland is in the middle of the area attributed to the Venicones by Ptolemy and the Stuarts have known Scoti Y-DNA Ancestry

The Scoti

The Uí Maine are the Erpeditani

The Erpeditani who Ptolemy placed to the south of the Voluntii occupy the same region that Uí Maine originally did. The other alternative would have been the Airghialla who were very big in Fermanagh. But the DNA research suggests that they arrived in Ireland as part of the Goidelic invasion. In fact it was the arrival of the Airghialla in 327 AD caused the Uí Maine to move to the Galway region of Connacht.

In most maps of Ptolemy's Ireland, the name used for the Tribe is the Erdini or the Erdinoi.

In Ptolemy's Tribes of Ireland (revised) by Martin Counihan, he offered the following opinion:

The name of this group, whose home was at the foot of Donegal Bay, is particularly difficult to interpret. Besides Erpeditani, some editions of the Geography give an alternative version of the name: Erdini. Our first task is to decide which, if either, of these versions is likely to be authentic.

If we look at the names of all the Celtic tribes across Europe, we find that the suffix -dini hardly occurs at all (apart from the possible Erdini, the only other example is the British Votadini) whereas -tani occurs at least a dozen times. For that reason alone, Erpeditani is more probably correct than Erdini.

Moreover, if a name is recorded incorrectly, it seems more likely that syllables are accidentally omitted ("syncope") than that imaginary syllables are inserted ("epenthesis"). In other words, it is easier to imagine Erpeditani being miscopied as Erdini than vice versa. These factors suggest rejecting Erdini as erroneous and accepting Erpeditani as the true name of this tribe.

In Scotland, the most likely contender to be the Erpeditani are the Taexali. The Romans in Britain seemed to have named them after a river that formed the southern boundary of their kingdom.

It is known is that they shared many cultural elements with their neighbours the Venicones to the south. These low lying and fertile parts of eastern Scotland provide archaeological evidence for different types of settlement and rituals for these tribes compared to those of the Highlands and Islands to the west and north.

They practiced complex funeral rituals in which bodies were naturally allowed to decompose. The Venicones and Taexali also made offerings of prestigious decorated locally made metal objects in bogs and lakes, including massive bronze armlets. Only the Venicones and Taexali wore these unusual ornaments, which could weigh over 1.5 kg each and were worn one on each arm.

This leads me to think that the Venicones and Taexali had a close kinship and that the Taexali were the third tribe of the Scoti invasion of Ireland.

Side notes on the origins of the Scoti:

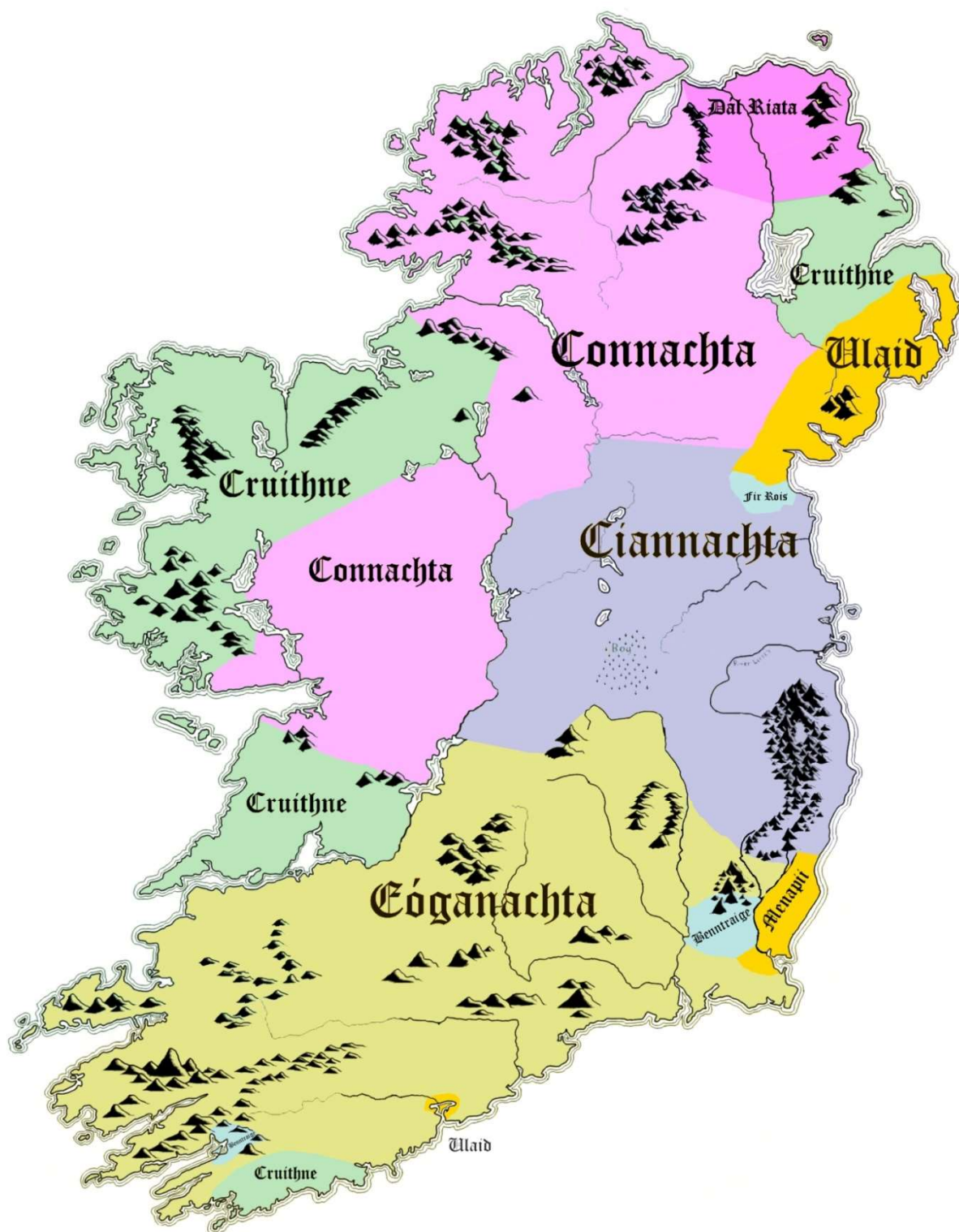
I am suggesting that the Scoti originated in Scotland. Sometime around the 5th Century BC they came to Ireland and in the 5th Century AD some of them returned to Scotland and over time formed the Kingdom of the Gaels and Picts.

This sends the DNA in both directions, but which came first.

Given the close proximity of Ulster and Scotland it makes sense that there would have been on-going links between the two population groups. However, the Y-DNA of the Stuarts split from the rest of the Scoti about 1,100 BC and I take this as an indication that Scoti Y-DNA predates their arrival in Ireland.

The Scoti

Ireland Around 400 B.C.



The Leginians

The Sixth Wave – The Leginians

Professor O'Rahilly's third wave becomes my sixth wave due to my split of the **Érainn** into **Érainn** and **Darini** and my addition of the **Scoti**.

Traditionally, the Leginians invasion was seen to have been by the Septs associated with the Laigin and only affected the old province of Laigin (South Leinster)

- Uí Bairrche
- Uí Cheinnselaig
- Uí Dúnlainge – who split into 3 further Septs
 - Uí Muiredaig
 - Uí Faelain
 - Uí Dúchada

These Laigin all belong to subclade **R1b-ZZ10**. Significantly, the Dál gCais (**L226**) and the **L1066** Septs also belong to this subclade and I believe the following Septs also need to be taken into account as part of the Leginian invasion.

- Déisi Tuisceart
- Déisi Muman
- Déisi Brega, Saithne Brega
- O'Kelly of Brega (One of the four tribes of Tara)
- Clann Uaithne
- Mac Conmara Sept of Clare
- Ó Beargha Sept of Limerick
- Ó Séaghdha Sept of Tipperary

Given the DNA links with the Dál gCais (**L226**) and the **L1066** Septs, how the Septs had mixed DNA pools and how their territories are all interwoven, this leads me to a major revision of the Leginians invasion.

The results of the Leginians invasion did not just affect the old province of Laigin; it also took over all of Munster except Cork and Kerry and parts of southern Connacht.

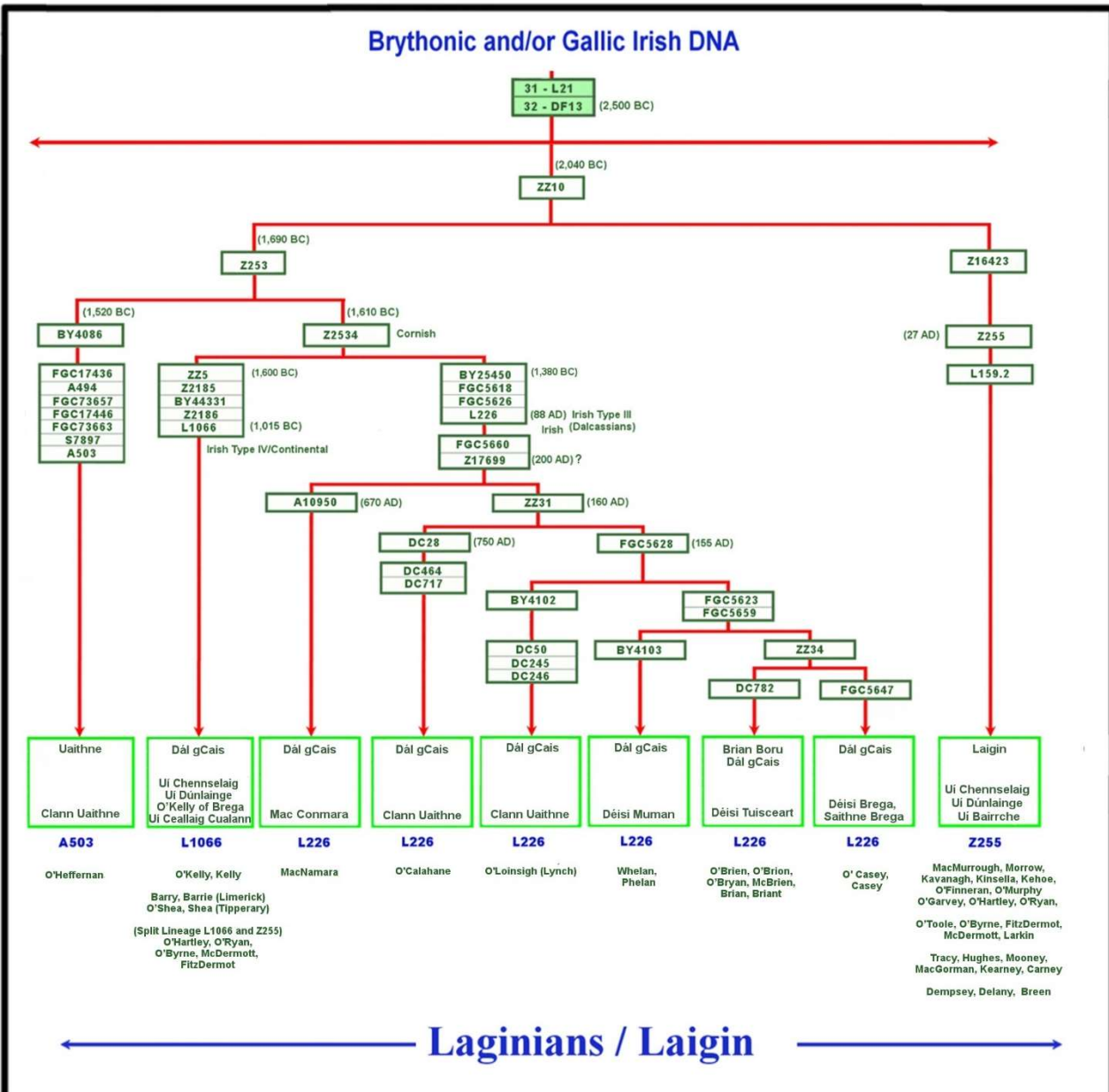
Currently there is no DNA evidence to support O'Rahilly's theory that they fully subjugated Connacht. But there was definitely a major Laigin incursion into Connacht.

Initially the Déisi Tuisceart and Mac Conmara took control of Limerick and North Tipperary; they then took control of Clare. Until this invasion Clare had been considered part of Connacht but from then on it became part of Munster. The Déisi Tuisceart became the Dál gCais or Dalcassians of Brian Boru fame.

Clann Uaithne occupied Galway where they stayed until about 375 AD when the Uí Maine arrival in Connacht prompted the Clann Uaithne to move to Dál gCais lands in Tipperary.

The Déisi Muman are considered the original Déisi Sept that later split up into the various different Déisi, an initial look at the DNA suggests it happened about 200 AD, so at the time of the invasion they were all just **Dál gCais**, but this would need to be investigated further.

The Leginians



The Leginians

Clan / Group	Y-DNA Markers	Major Clan Names	Surnames
Laigin (Irish Sea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10>Z16423>>Z255 	Uí Cheinnselaig	MacMurrough, Morrow, Kavanagh, Kinsella Kehoe, O'Finneran, O'Murphy O'Garvey, O'Hartley, O'Ryan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10>Z16423>>Z255 	Uí Dúnlainge – Uí Muiredaig – Uí Faelain – Uí Dúinchada	O'Toole, O'Byrne, FitzDermot, McDermott, Larkin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10>Z16423>>Z255 	Uí Bairrche	Tracy, Hughes, Mooney, MacGorman, Kearney, Carney
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10>Z16423>>Z255 	Uí Failghe	Dempsey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> CTS3386 	Uí Failghe	Dwyer. O'Dwyer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10>Z16423>>Z255 	Osraighe	Delany, Brody, Broderick, Breen, MacBreen
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10_1>Z255>L159>Z16434> 	Osraighe	Mac Giolla Phádraig – Fitzpatrick

The Leginians

Clan / Group	Y-DNA Markers	Major Clan Names	Surnames
Dál gCais (Irish Type III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>> L226>>ZZ31> FGC5628> FGC5623>> ZZ34>DC782 	Déisi Tuisceart (Brian Boru Sept)	O'Brien, O'Brion, O'Bryan, McBrien, Briant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>> L226>>ZZ31> FGC5628> FGC5623>> ZZ34>FGC564 	Déisi Brega, Saithne Brega	Ua Caitheasaigh - O' Casey, Casey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>> L226>>ZZ31> FGC5628> FGC5623>> BY4103 	Déisi Muman Osraighe	Whelan, Phelan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>> L226>>A10950 	Mac Conmara Sept	MacNamara
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>> L226>>ZZ31> FGC5628> 	Clann Uaithne	O'Loinsigh (Lynch)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>ZZ10>Z253> 	Uí Failghe	Dunne, Regan, O'Connor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>> L226>>FGC5660 	Osraighe	O'Dea,
Dál gCais (Irish Type IV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>>L1066 	Uí Cheinnselaig	O'Hartley, O'Ryan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>>L1066 	Uí Cheinnselaig Uí Dúnlainge – Uí Faelain – Uí Dúnochada	O'Byrne McDermott, FitzDermot
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>>L1066 	O'Kelly of Brega Uí Ceallaig Cualann Osraighe	O'Kelly, Kelly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10> Z253>Z2534>>L1066 	O' Beargha O'Seaghdha	Barry, Barrie (Limerick) O'Shea, O' Shee (Tipperary)
Uaithne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>L21>DF13>ZZ10>Z253>BY4086 >> A503 	Clann Uaithne	O'Heffernan

The Leginians

Three names have been ascribed to the Leginian Invaders. These names are Laigin, Domnainn and Gálioín and according to their own traditions, they came to Ireland from Armorica (Brittany).

The DNA record seems to support that. The Laigin, Domnainn and Gálioín do all seem to have Belgic/Gallic roots and are most likely to have come from Armorica, but possibly some elements of them came from Belgic settlements along the south and southwest coast of England and Wales.

It is important at this point to emphasise that Armorica and Brittany are not the same although they are often used interchangeably. Modern Brittany only covers the Brittany peninsula in France whereas Armorica is the name given in ancient times to the area between the Seine and the Loire rivers that includes the Brittany Peninsula and all of western Normandy. It may also have included the English counties of Devon and Cornwall.

All but two of the tribes involved in the Leginians invasion belong to subclade **R1b-ZZ10**; they had probably all split into their distinct subclades before the invasion, so this should help with the timeline.

R1b-L21> DF13>L21> DF13>ZZ10 (age about 2,000 BC)

ZZ10 in turn splits into two subclades:

- **Z253** – The Rest (age about 1,700 BC)
- **Z255** – The Laigin (age about 27 AD)

Z253 further splits into 3 further subclades.

- **L226** – The Dál gCais and part of Clann Uaithne (age about 88 AD)
- **L1066** – Part of the Laigin and O’Kelly of Brega (age about 1000 BC)
- **A503** – Clann Uaithne (age about 500 BC)

This seems to indicate to me that the Leginians invasion took place a little later than previously estimated maybe sometime between the 1st Century BC and the 1st Century AD.

The DNA marker R-Z255 represents the Laigin.

The Brigantes, the Manapíi and the Coriondi on Ptolemy’s map have long been associated with the Laigin.

The Brigantes represent what we traditionally call the Laigin.

As I mentioned earlier, the Manapíi and the Coriondi were already in Ireland as part of the Érainn but facilitated the Laigin Invasion. These are the only non ZZ10 tribes that participated in the invasion.

The Manapíi, who became the Fir Managh, claimed descent from the Laigin of Leinster and the Uí Bairrche in particular, and the Uí Bairrche claimed descent from the Brigantes.

The DNA evidence suggests that the Fir Managh and the Uí Bairrche are not genetically linked, so this kinship seems to be based on tribal and historical grounds. They are **R1b-L513** which is the same subclade the Ulaid belong to and are a story onto themselves, so I will deal with them after I go through the rest of the Leginians.

However, the Benntraig (Coriondi) who accompanied the Fir Managh to Ulster, were haplogroup **R-FGC5494** and did have kin among the **Uí Bairrche** in the form of the Gormans and the Clearys.

The Laginians

The DNA marker L253 represents the Gálioín and the Domnainn

The Dál gCais (**L226** and **L1066**) are the **Gálioín** (later identified as the Gailenga of Meath and north county Dublin who had Dál gCais DNA)

The **L226** branch of the Y-DNA tree has been designated as the Irish Type III subclade. This Haplogroup is linked to Brian Boru and the Dál gCais.

I mentioned above that The **L226** Haplogroup is linked to Brian Boru and the Dál gCais. 'Brian' was not a traditional Irish Celtic name before Brian Boru. In fact Brian is a Breton name, which has led to speculation that his unknown mother may have been a Breton princess. It could also be another indication that the Dál gCais themselves were of Armorican origin and maintained links to Armorica.

The **L1066** branch of the Y-DNA tree has been designated as the Irish Type IV subclade. It was only identified in 2006 and its implications are still being explored. It is sometimes referred to as Irish Type IV/Continental because of its strong links to Brittany.

Perhaps **Laigin Type II** for **L226** and **Laigin Type III** for **L1066** would have been more appropriate.

The DNA marker **L1066** has been strongly linked to both Brittany and Cornwall.

The word Déisi is Old Irish for tenants or vassals. After the Goidels invasion, the Goidels subjugated the Laigin tribes. The Laigin leaders were allowed to retain possession of their territory, but a heavy tribute was imposed upon them. Known as the Bórama (or Bóru), it continued to be exacted at irregular intervals until the 8th century AD.

The Déisi were considered to have been vassals of the Eóganachta, but I believe that they only became vassals of the Eóganacht Chaisil and only after the Goidelic Invasion.

The DNA marker A503 represents the Domnainn

O'Rahilly's historical model proposed that the Domnainn were a P-Celtic, pre-Goidelic people who, along with the Galeóin, invaded the south-east coast of Ireland from Britain. Yet the area with the strongest place-name associations with the Fir Domnann is in north-west Mayo: The Iorrais Domnann, from which the modern barony of Erris takes its name, and nearby Mag Domnann and Dún Domnann

The Uaithni in early medieval times lived in north-eastern County Limerick and the adjoining part of County Tipperary and had traditions that they once lived west of the River Shannon. The Uaithne have long been identified as the Auteini (Eoin MacNeill, 1911), who Ptolemy placed in the Galway/Mayo area of Ireland.

The Laginians

The mixed DNA of the Septs

Different Septs have different **ZZ10 Y-DNA**.

Some are dominated by one type;

- Uí Muiredaig (**Z255**), O'Kellys of Brega (**L1066**), Dál gCais (**L226**)

Others have mix of multiple **Y-DNA** Types:

- The Uí Faelain and the Uí Dúinchada Septs seem to be a mixture of **Z255** and **L1066**
- Clann Uaithne is a mixture of **L226** and **A503**
- Uí Bairrche is a mixture of **Z255** and **FGC5494**.
- The Uí Cheinnselaig Sept DNA is actually split three ways, between **Z255**, **L1066** and **DF27**.

Traditionally, the Uí Ceinnselaig Sept trace their descent from Énnae Cennsalach, a supposed contemporary of Niall of the Nine Hostages. Énnae was said to be a grandson of Bressal Bélach, who as it turns out, looks like he had **DF27** ancestry.

DF27 is the 'Celtiberian' DNA marker and arrived in Ireland as part of the Goidelic invasion. The Uí Cheinnselaig Sept may just have been taken over by Goidel elements after that Invasion. But the Uí Cheinnselaig already been partly **DF27**, I will discuss this when I cover the origins of the Laginians.

The Manapii, Coriondi and Brigantes Alliance

Immediately south of the **Menapii** in Belgic Gaul were the **Eburones**, who were describes as being of mixed Belgic and Germanic composition.

From about the 6th century BC The Menapii and related Belgic tribes had spread themselves along the English Channel on both sides. Belgae were known to have occupied the area around the Isle of Wight in England. One of these other tribes, the **Aulerci**, based in modern day Normandy, was known to be at least partially Belgic. It was itself split into 4 major sub-tribes. One of these was the **Eburovices**, sometimes written as the **Aulerci –Eburovices**.

The Eburovices and the Eburones, at least the Belgic part, are probably related. Interestingly, in a French language map of Celtic tribes I found on-line, both of these tribes have the same name – Éburons.

Professor Dáithí Ó hÓgáin in his book 'The Celts: A History', suggests that the some of these Eburovices migrated to Britain in the early 4th century BC, where they became known as the Brigantes. The chief settlement of the Brigantes in Britain was called Eburacon (Modern day York), perhaps a nod to their former tribal name.

So the tribe in Ireland may have been called Brigantes by the Romans because they were a Brigantes tribe, as opposed to 'The Brigantes' in Britain.

Above the Brigantes in Northern England were the territories of the **Corionototae** and the **Votadini** was in what is now south-east Scotland and north-east England. The **Votadini** extending from the Firth of Forth and around modern Stirling to the River Tyne, including at its peak what are now the Falkirk, Lothian and Borders regions and Northumberland.

Victorian historians often referred to the Dumnonii in Devon and Cornwall as the Damnonii, which is also the name of another people from lowland Scotland, although there are no known links between the two populations.

However, the Damnonii occupy the region in Strathclyde beside the Votadini, who as I mentioned earlier became known as the Manaw Gododdin. So this could represent another Menapii-Brigantes-Dumnonii link.

The Leginians

Ptolemy's Tribes and their Origins

I suggest the following Laigin links to Ptolemy's tribes.

- **Brigantes** - Uí Bairrche, Uí Dúnlainge, Uí Ceinnselaig

T. F. O'Rahilly identified the Uí Bairrche with the Brigantes and they are the only one of the three Septs with mainly **Z255** (Laigin) DNA, so I am happy to go along with that.

But then what of the other two Septs who both have more mixed DNA.

Remember that the Brigantes were a federation of tribes, not a single unit and the Uí Dúnlainge and Uí Ceinnselaig represent related tribes within the Brigantes federation. The name itself, Brigantes, was the name the Romans called them, not what they called themselves.

I suggest the following Dál gCais links to Ptolemy's tribes.

- **Gangani** - Déisi Tuisceart
- **Usdiae** - Déisi Muman
- **Auteini**- Uaithne (O'Heffernan, O'Calahane, O'Loinsigh (Lynch))
- **Cauci** - Déisi Brega, Saithne Brega (Ua Caitheasaigh - O' Casey, Uí Ceallaig Cualann - O'Kelly)

The Gangani of Ptolemy's map are fairly obviously the Déisi Tuisceart, who were also present in north Wales on the Llyn Peninsular beside the Menapii settlement of Mons (Anglesey)

I have linked the Usdiae with the Déisi Muman. The Usdiae were variously known as the Vodiai and the Ousdiai on different versions of Ptolemy's Map

Now that we know that the Ua Caitheasaigh (O' Casey) and Uí Ceallaig Cualann (O'Kelly) are related to the **Dál gCais**, these two clans probably represent the Cauci. The area controlled by the Uí Ceallaig Cualann is the same area ascribed to the Cauci by Ptolemy.

I have seen it suggested on-line that Cauci should not be pronounced as Kaw-Key but Kaw-See, as in Casey.

Co-incidentally, there was a tribe in Kent called the Cassi, who were briefly mentioned as one of the four tribes of Kent that submitted to Julius Caesar in 54 BC, but who seemed to have disappeared by the time of Claudius' invasion in 43 AD.

Opportunities

The **Ulaid** and the **Benntraige** took part in the Laigin Invasion in return for expanding their existing settlements.

It is the reason that the Ulaid felt able to launch their takeover of Ulster at the same time as the Leginian invasion. I suspect that additional Manapii from Armorica, Britain and the Isle of Man joined the existing Ulaid in Ulster at the time of the Leginian invasion and coordinated their expansion with the Laigin.

The invasion would have been greatly facilitated by using the existing Menapii trading settlements.

At the same time the **Benntraige** expanded inland from Wexford and helped create **Osraighe**. It also explains how the **Osraighe** could be counted among the Érainn and yet still claim to be Laigin, a claim O'Rahilly believed was a fabrication, invented to help them achieve their goals in Leinster.

They were actually a little bit of both.

The Leginians

Osraighe

Osraighe, anglicized as Ossory, was a medieval Irish kingdom comprising what is now County Kilkenny and western County Laois, corresponding to the Diocese of Ossory. It looks like it may have been larger than that initially.

The home of the Osraighe people, it existed from around the first century until the Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12th century. According to tradition, Osraighe was founded by Óengus Osrithe in the 1st century and was originally within the province of Leinster.

Óengus Osrithe is probably a founding father myth. The name is more likely to have come from the Usdiae (also known as Ousdiai) who Ptolemy placed beside the Brigantes and who were **Dál gCais**.

There were 16 Septs associated with the Osraighe; I have some Y-DNA information on 11 of them, the other 5 are minor septs of uncommon names, with not enough YDNA on Family Tree DNA to analyse.

Of the surnames associated with these 11 Septs:

- 8 have some Dál gCais or Laigin Y-DNA
- 3 have some Benntraige Y-DNA
- 4 have some Connachta Y-DNA
- 3 have some Eóganachta Y-DNA
- 3 have some Ciannachta Y-DNA
- 2 have some Ulaid Y-DNA

The big problem is that these surnames do not necessarily have to only come from Osraighe.

Taking the O'Kellys as an example, they have Dal gCais, Connachta, Ulaid and Ciannachta Y-DNA

But the O'Kellys we are looking for are the Ua Caellaighe of Dairmag Ua nDuach (Dunrow-in-Ossory)

- There are Ciannachta O'Kellys in the Seven Septs of Laois
- The O'Kellys of Uí Maine are a known branch of the Connachta
- The O'Kelly of Brega are a known branch of the Dal gCais

So it is only indicative not definitive.

The Ciannachta and Eóganachta Y-DNA are most likely from the surrounding tribes as Osraighe sits on the borders of what were competing Ciannachta and Eóganachta spheres of influence before the Laigin invasion. If we exclude them, that leaves 8 Septs;

- All 8 have either Dál gCais (7) and/or Laigin (3) Y-DNA
- 5 have some Benntraige or Ulaid Y-DNA

So Osraighe was an independent kingdom of mixed **Dál gCais/Laigin/Benntraige/Ulaid** Septs with the more homogeneous **Dál gCais** of the **Déisi Tuisceart** to their north, the **Déisi Muman** to their South and West and the **Laigin** to their East

In the 5th century (400 to 500 AD), the Corcu Loígde of Munster displaced the Dál Birn and brought Osraighe under Munster's direct control. So I will return to Osraighe as part of the Goidel Invasion.

The Leginians

Prelude to the Invasion

In 57 BC, Caesar sent Publius Crassus to deal with the Armorica tribes. He secured an alliance with the tribes and took hostages to ensure good faith. The Veneti also submit, but some of the Veneti and Menapii head for Britain in the same year and establish a community around Winchester and on the Isle of Wight in England

In 56 BC, the Veneti captured the commissaries that Caesar had sent to demand grain supplies in the winter of 57–56 BC, using them as bargaining chips to secure the release of the hostages they had previously surrendered to Caesar. When Caesar declares war, the other Armorican tribes – the Osismii, the Aulerci, the Venelli, the Redones, the Namnetes and the Coriosolites form an Alliance with the Veneti and the Menapii to fight the Romans.

When besieged by the Romans, the Veneti are able to use their ships to evacuate their troops and the Romans have to start again at the next stronghold. Caesar decides that the only way to defeat the Veneti is to destroy their fleet, so he builds a fleet of Roman Galleys to fight them.

Caesar's galleys were at a serious disadvantage compared to the ocean going Veneti ships. They were less manoeuvrable and because they were shorter it made the Veneti ships almost impossible to board. To overcome these disadvantages, Caesar's legate Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus trapped the Gaulish fleet in Quiberon Bay, an area of sheltered water on the south coast of Brittany. He also picked a calm day, so there was very little wind, thus reducing the Veneti ships manoeuvrability. The Romans used specially constructed long billhooks to cut the rigging, drag the mainsails to the deck and cripple the ship, The Romans were able to board, and the whole Veneti fleet fell into their hands.

After the defeat Caesar decided to make an example of the Veneti. He executed the tribal elders, the Veneti who survived the battle were sold into slavery and their children were mutilated. Though much diminished the tribe as such survived and is this attested in imperial times by other Roman authors.

I believe that this defeat and its aftermath triggered the Laigin Invasion. The Veneti/Menapii, the Osismii, the Aulerci-Eburones, the Coriosolites and possibly some other elements of the Anti-Roman alliance gathered their tribes and headed into Irish exile, The Menapii and Coriondi already had settlements in Ireland so they formed ready-made bridgeheads for the invasion

Ptolemy's Tribes and their Origins

- The **Aulerci-Éburons** became the **Brigantes (Laigin)**
- The **Veneti/Menapii** became the **Manapii** and the **Voluntii (Ulaid)**
- The **Coriosolites** became the **Coriondi (Benntraige)**
- The **Osismii** became the **Cauci**, the **Urdia** and the **Gangani (Dál gCais)**
- The **Auteini** became the **Uaithne**

The Leginians

The Invasion

The Invasion probably took place on four fronts, based on natural harbours.

A combined Gálioín and Domnainn force landed in North Dublin, secured the area and then pushed south along the coast

- A Laigin force landed in Wexford pushed north to link up with the Dublin beachhead and pushed inland along the Slaney.
- A combined Gálioín and Laigin force landed in Waterford. The Gálioín pushed west along the Suir into the Golden Vale. The Laigin pushed north along the Nore and the Barrow.
- The Gálioín landed in the Shannon Estuary and secured an area around present-day Limerick, then push south to link up with the force in the Golden Vale.

I think the push north to take Galway may have happened at a later date after they were well established.

Consequences of the First Armorican invasion

- New kingdoms were established in Connacht (which included Clare at the time), in Ossory and in Laigin a kingdom was set up which stretched from Wexford to Dublin.
- The Ulaid also took the opportunity to expand their kingdom into Mid-Ulster
- The Connachta lost south Connacht to the Dál gCais and they lost Mid-Ulster to the Ulaid.
- The Ciannachta lost land in Brega to the Déisi Brega and probably had to acknowledge their over-lordship in the Lands they retained.

The establishment of the new Déisi Muman and Laigin kingdoms in South Leinster would have severely weakened both the Ciannachta and Eóganachta. Who lost the most would depend on where exactly the boundaries were between the old existing Ciannachta and Eóganachta kingdoms.

By the time of the Leginian invasion Ireland was more fully populated so the previous Clans all lost land and power to the Invaders. The defeated clans either had to move into areas where they still managed to maintain control of, or become vassals of the newcomers.

This is more extreme what happened in previous migrations/invasions and would leave plenty of resentment in the defeated Clans, which I believe was exploited by the **Goidels** when they invaded.

The Laigin Invasion was not a single even but took place over time. There was the initial invasion and formation of new kingdoms, but there was strife between the clans and sometimes even between the Laigin after that.

As mentioned above, I think the push north by the **Uaithne** to take Galway and west Mayo may have happened at a later date after they were well established.

After the Laigin Invasion the most important event was the further rise of the **Ulaid**

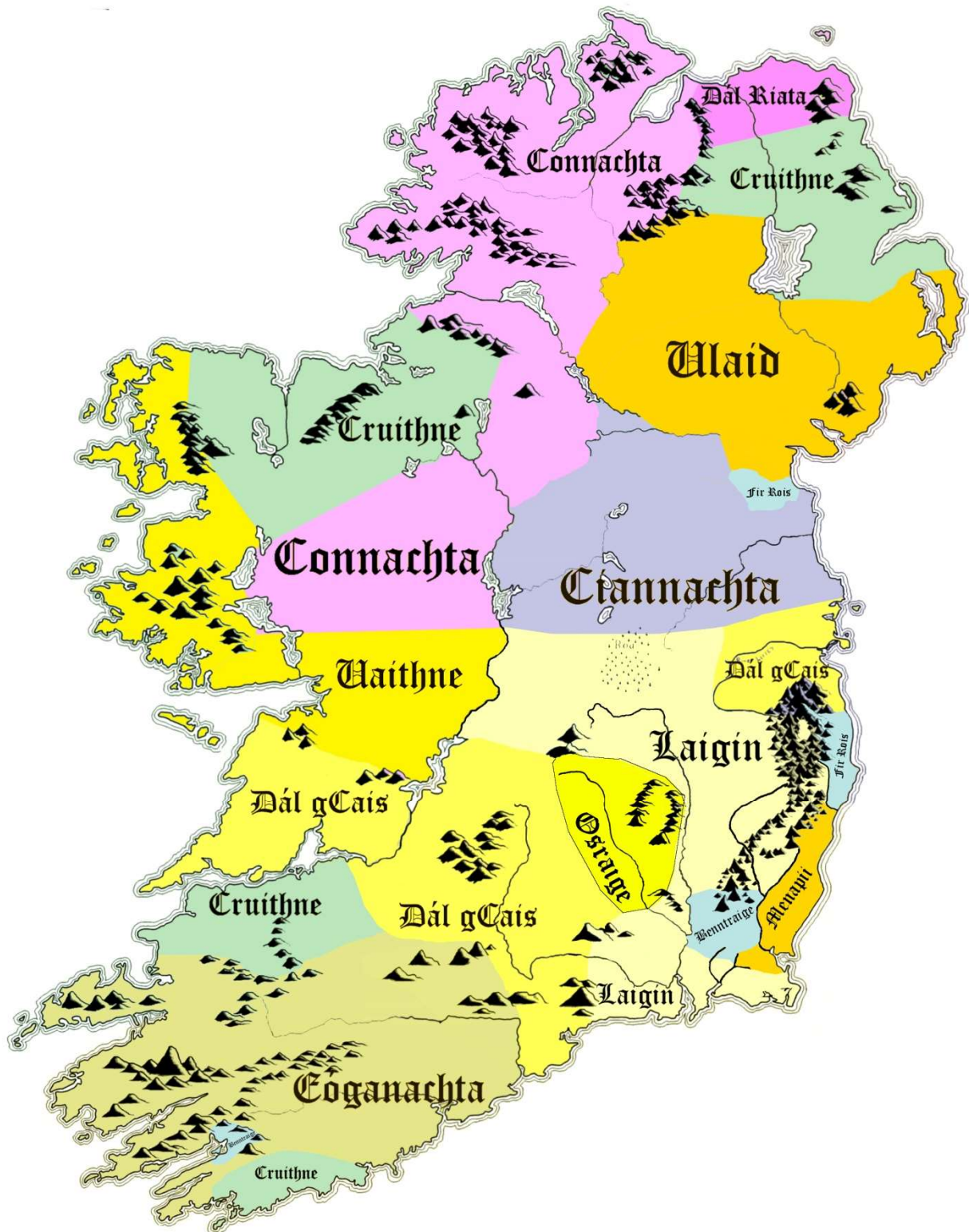
The movement of the **Manapii** and the **Benntraige** from Leinster to Ulster to where the **Manapii** became the **Fir Managh** and the **Benntraige** occupied part of Tyrone may have happened as early as 250 AD but was definitely prior to the Goidel Invasion; this may have been part of the push where the **Ulaid** finally gained control of all Ulster.

By the time of the Goidel Invasion the Ulaid were said to rule the whole of the modern province of Ulster, excluding County Cavan, but including County Louth. Its southern border was said to stretch from the river Drowes in the west to the river Boyne in the east.

It was to this Ireland that the Goidels arrived

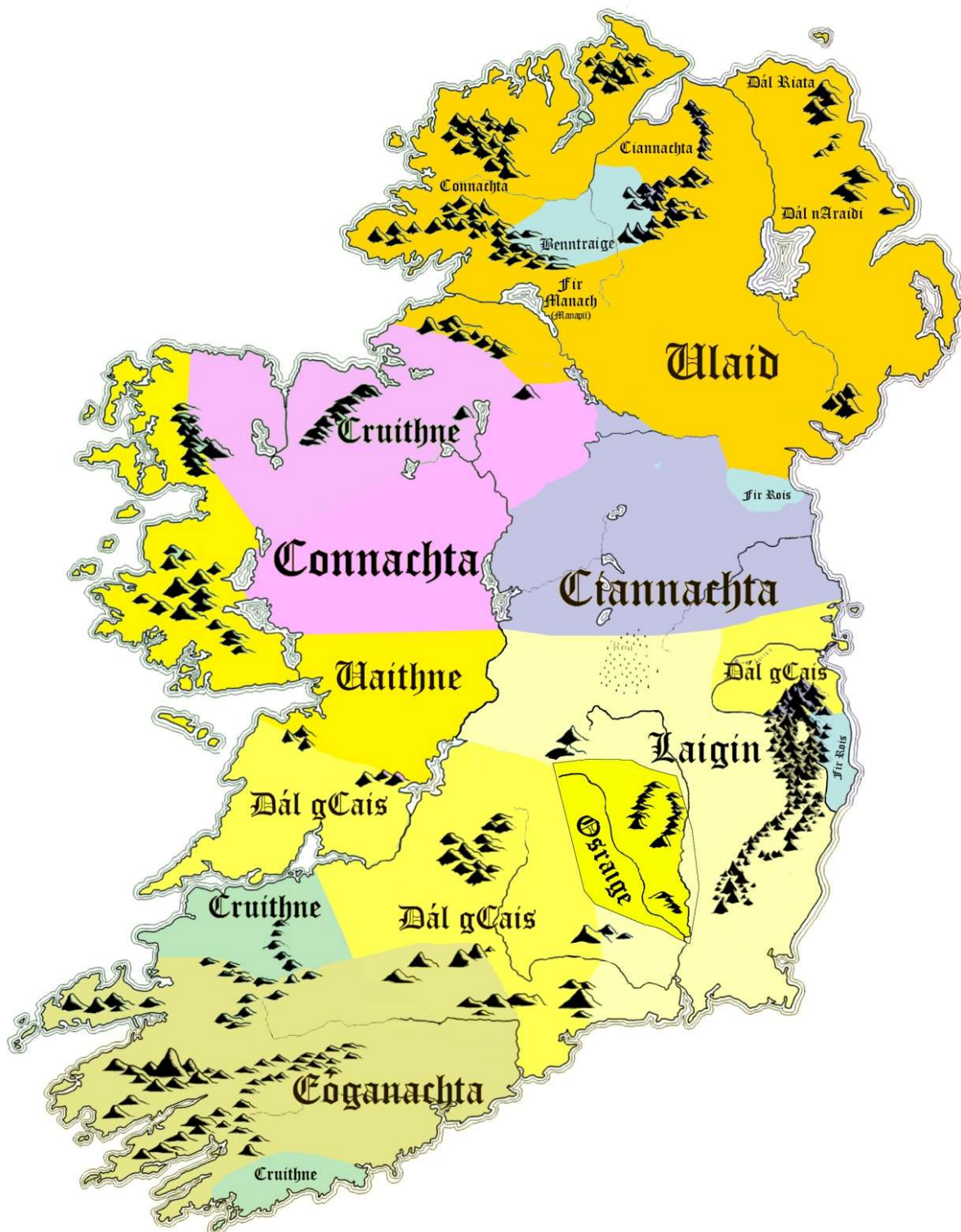
The Leginians

Ireland Around 100 A.D.



The Leginians

Ireland Around 250 A.D.



The Goidels

The Seventh Wave – The Goidels (Gaels)

The **R1b-DF27** branch of the Y-DNA tree has been proposed as a haplogroup of Iberian origin due to its maximum frequencies in the Iberian Peninsula. Most of the regions where it has been found are on the Iberian Peninsula.

For this reason it is often called 'Celtiberian'. According to myth, the final Celtic invasion of Ireland was a Goidelic invasion by the sons of Milesius from Spain. The Milesians are supposed to represent the vast majority of the Irish Gaels. The presence of **DF27** in Ireland could be indicative that this myth had a basis in fact.

While the Goidelic invasion did have major implications in the political division of the island, the lack of DF27 related DNA in the general population, unlike, for example, Irish Type I (M222), Irish Type II (CTS4466) or Irish Type III (L226), would seem to indicate that it had more in common with the later Norman invasion than the earlier migrations or even the Lagenian invasion. It was more like the arrival of warrior elite with their families and camp followers and less like the migration of entire tribes.

In fact, as I mentioned above, I believe that the Connachta, the Ciannachta and the Eóganachta all allied with the Goidels when they invaded to regain some of the power and territories, they had lost to the Lagenians.

More DF27 Y-DNA

There is a fourth group of **DF27 Y-DNA** in Ireland, the Hiberno-Norman De Burgh or Burkes.

It was founded by William de Burgh who arrived in 1185 with Henry II of England. Unfortunately, his family line was so obscure that they can only be traced back to his father and the English village of Burgh-next-Aylsham in Norfolk. So it is of no help in finding out where they originated from. However it may be yet another indication that the Goidels came from Gaul rather than Iberia.

Several Breton and Flemish knights helped William the Conqueror to invade England and received large estates there. If the de Burgh's were of Breton descent, it would help tie the **DF27** DNA back to Armorica (Brittany)

Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, who was from a Scot-Norman family, has known **DF27** lineage. The family name is said to have come from Bruis, now Brix, near Cherbourg in the Cotentin Peninsula, and they were considered Bretons.

However, just be aware that **DF27** is also present in England, with the strongest concentrations being found in Cornwall, Devon, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

Devon and Cornwall was mainly settled by Celts from Armorica originally, but Devon and Cornwall is also where the Bretons came from to form Brittany when they migrated there under pressure from the Anglo-Saxons. It's the old chicken and egg conundrum, which came first.

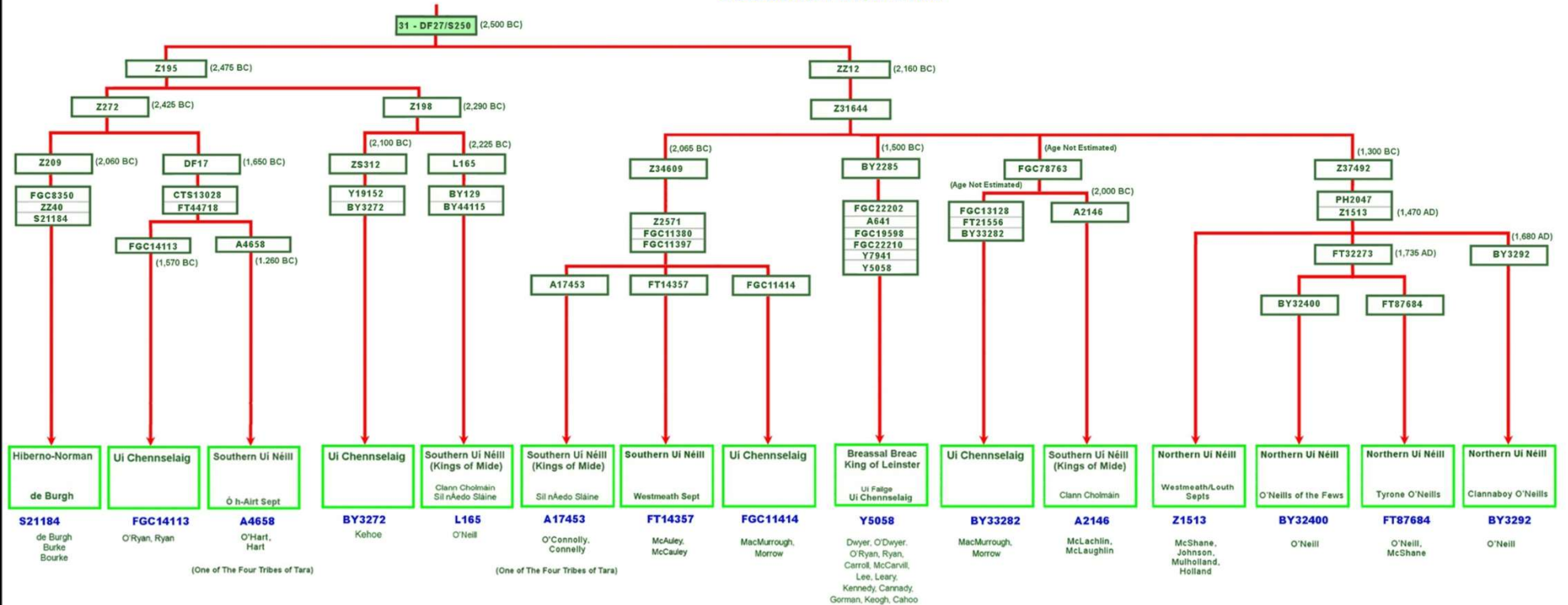
The Goidels

I have only been able to identify the following Clans as the Goidels.

Clan / Group	Y-DNA Markers	Major Clan Names	Surnames
Southern Uí Néill (Kings of Mide)	• R1b>DF27>Z195> Z198>>L165	Clann Cholmáin Síl nÁedo Sláine	O'Neil
	• R1b>DF27>Z195> Z272>DF17>>A4658	Ó h-Airt Sept (One of The Four Tribes of Tara)	O'Hart, Hart
	• R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644> FGC78763>>A2146	Clann Cholmáin	McLachlin, McLaughlin
	• R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644>Z34609 >>A17453	Síl nÁedo Sláine (One of The Four Tribes of Tara)	O'Connolly, Connelly, Connell
	• R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644>Z34609 >>FT14357	Westmeath Septs	McAuley, McCauley
Northern Uí Néill	• R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644>Z37492 >>Z1513>BY3292	Clannaboy O'Neills	O'Neill
	• R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644>Z37492 >>Z1513>FT32273>BY32400	O'Neill of the Fews	O'Neill
	• R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644>Z37492 >>Z1513>FT32273>FT87684	Tyrone O'Neills	O'Neill
	• R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644>Z37492 >>Z1513	Westmeath/Louth Septs	McShane, Johnson, Mulholland, Holland
Bressal Bélach	• R1b>P312>DF27>BY2285>>Y5058	Uí Failghe Uí Cheinnselaig	O'Dwyer, Dyer, Ryan, O'Ryan Carroll, McCarvil, Lee, Leary, Kennedy, Cannady, Gorman, Keogh, Cahoo
	• R1b>DF27>Z195> Z198>>ZS312	Uí Cheinnselaig	Kehoe
	• R1b>DF27>Z195> Z272>DF17>>A4658	Uí Cheinnselaig	O'Ryan, Ryan
	• R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644> FGC78763>>BY33282 • R1b>DF27>ZZ12>>Z31644>Z34609 >>FGC11414	Uí Cheinnselaig	MacMurrough, Morrow

The Goidels

Celtiberian Irish DNA



Goidels / Gaels / Romano-Celts

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

R1b-DF27 (age about 2,500 BC)

In Ireland, the **DF27** Haplogroup is split into two subclades:

- **R1b-DF27 >Z195 (age about 2,400 BC)**
- **R1b-DF27 >ZZ12 (age about 2,100 BC)**

In Irish terms **Z195** is the lesser of the two subclades; it contains five distinct clan groupings, one of which is the Hiberno-Norman De Burghs. **ZZ12** in comparison contains eight distinct clan groupings. The subclade is where the Hiberno-Norman De Burgh DNA splits off from the rest of the Celtic **DF27 Y-DNA** is **R1b-DF27 >Z195>>Z209** (age about **2,000 BC**). I had hoped it had been later to help establish a timeline.

The Southern Uí Néill are found under both subclades but the Northern Uí Néill are only under **ZZ12**. The Haplogroup where the Northern Uí Néill split from the Southern Uí Néill is **R1b-Z37492** which has an estimated age of about 1,300 BC. This is about 1,600 years before they invaded Ireland, so they seem to have been a confederation of related tribal groups rather than one major clan.

It also means they cannot be descended from the 'Niall of the Nine Hostages' DNA, **R1b-M222**

Northern Uí Néill

There are five Septs associated with Northern Uí Néill DNA under **ZZ12**

- Clannaboy O'Neills - R1b>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>Z37492 >>Z1513>BY3292
- O'Neill of the Fews - R1b>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>Z37492>>Z1513>FT32273>BY32400
- Tyrone O'Neills - R1b>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>Z37492>>Z1513>FT32273>FT87684
- Clan Shanes - R1b>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>Z37492 >>Z1513
- O'Maolchalann Septs - R1b>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>Z37492 >>Z1513

Clan Shanes were found in Derry, Armagh, Westmeath and Louth (McShane, Shane, and Johnson) O'Maolchalann Septs were found in Derry, Westmeath and Limerick (Mulholland, Holland)

The DNA of these five Septs only diverged after Haplogroup **Z1513** which has an estimated age of about **1,450 AD**. So they do seem to have been one distinct clan within the invading tribes.

Southern Uí Néill

On the other hand, the five Septs associated with Southern Uí Néill DNA seem to come from four different clans who were already in existence before the invasion.

- Southern Uí Néills (Clann Cholmáin, Síol nÁedo Sláine) - R1b>DF27>Z195> Z198>>L165
- Ó h-Airt Sept (O'Hart, Hart) - R1b>DF27>Z195> Z272>DF17>>A4658
- Clann Cholmáin (McLachlin, McLaughlin) - R1b>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>FGC78763>>A2146
- Síol nÁedo Sláine (O'Connolly, Connelly) - R1b>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>Z34609>>A17453
- Mac Amhalghaidh Sept of Westmeath (McAuley /McCauley} - R1b>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>Z34609>>FT14357

Of the five Septs, only the Mac Amhalghaidh Sept of Westmeath haplogroup seems to have come into existence after the invasion; **R1b-FT14357** has an estimated age of about **800 AD**.

The other four all predate the invasion; **R1b-L165** (age about 2,200 BC), **R1b-A2146** (age about 2,000 BC), **R1b-A4658** (age about 1,300 BC) and **R1b-A17453** (age about 700 BC).

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

Bressal Bélach mac Fiacha Baicheda

Bressal Bélach was a 5th century King of Leinster until about 436 AD. He was King of Leinster for 44 years. He was a descendant of Cathaír Már, King of Leinster (120 AD – 123 AD).

John O'Hart, in his book 'Irish Pedigrees' published in 1892, ties together the ancient genealogies of Ryan, O'Dwyer, Carroll/McCarvill, Lee/Leary, Kennedy/Cannady, Gorman, Keogh/Cahoo as descendants of Breassal Breac. The identification of Bressal Bélach DNA rests upon the similarity between a set of seven names in the ancient genealogy of Bressal Bélach and a set of seven names among 97 of 228 testers with **Y5058** Y-DNA, which is a subclade of **DF27**, these names are:

- Ryan, Dwyer, Carroll, Gorman, Keogh, Cosgrove, Whelan

Some of these names are associated with the Uí Failghe Sept, others with the Uí Cheinnselaig Sept.

Y5058 has an estimated age of about **100 BC**

In addition to the Bressal Bélach related **DF27** Y-DNA, four other branches of **D27** Y-DNA has been found that are also linked to the Uí Cheinnselaig Sept.

- Bressal Bélach - R1b>>DF27>BY2285>>Y5058
- Uí Cheinnselaig (Kehoe) - R1b>>DF27>Z195> Z198>>ZS312
- Uí Cheinnselaig (O'Ryan, Ryan) - R1b>>DF27>Z195> Z272>DF17>>A4658
- Uí Cheinnselaig (MacMurrough, Morrow) - R1b>>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644> FGC78763
>>BY33282
- Uí Cheinnselaig (MacMurrough, Morrow) - R1b>>DF27>ZZ12>Z31644>Z34609
>>FGC11414

The other 4 DNA Haplogroup branches are aged between **2,100 BC** and **800 BC**

The **Uí Failghe** Sept were Érainn/Laigin, the **Uí Cheinnselaig** Sept were Laigin.

Both seem to have been taken over by the Goidels; although the older Y-DNA Haplogroups remained dominant, a portion of the members of both Septs now carry the **DF27** Y-DNA Haplogroup.

As I mentioned earlier, The Uí Cheinnselaig Sept DNA is actually split three ways, between **Z255**, **L1066** and **DF27**.

For example, on FamilyTreeDNA you will find the surname Ryan under all three Haplogroups.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Airghialla of South Ulster

In addition to the **DF27 Y-DNA** ‘Celtiberian’ Clans, I think that the following **DF21 Y-DNA** British Clan also took part in Goidelic invasion

Clan / Group	Y-DNA Markers	Major Clan Names	Surnames
Ancient Airghialla (Three Collas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1b>>L21> DF13>DF21>Z16267>Z3008 	Uí Tuirtre Uí Cremthainn Uí Méith	Boylan, Carroll, Connolly, Cooley, Devine, Hart, Neal, Higgins, Hughes, Kelly, Larkin, McClain, MacDougall, McAuley, McDonald, McGuire, McKenna, McMahon, McQuillan, Monahan

Around the 4th century, three brothers known as ‘The Three Collas’ founded the kingdom of Airghialla (also known as Oriel) in the lands of the Ulaid. This was thought to just be a foundation Myth for the kingdom of Airghialla, but the DNA evidence seems to indicate that the three brothers actually existed.

R1b-L21> DF13 > DF21>Z16267 (age about 1,800 BC)

On FamilyTreeDNA there is a group called ‘Clan Colla 425 null’ who are dedicated on researching the origins and spread of Clan Colla DNA, in addition one of its administrators, Peter Biggins, has a web-site called <http://www.peterspioneers.com> with lots of wonderful information (and years of work) put into it. Any misinterpretation of this information is my own and my apologies if I have done so.

Originally, the Three Collas were associated with Haplogroup **R1b-Z3000 (estimated age 140 AD)**. They have since narrowed down the ancestry of the Three Collas to haplogroup **R1b-Z3008 (estimated age about 450 AD)**. Since the kingdom of Airghialla was founded in **327 AD**, the age estimation is well within the margin of error.

They have an interesting theory, first proposed by Donald Schlegel in his article Reweaving the Tapestry of Ancient Ulster in the Clogher Record Vol. 17, No. 3 (2002),

The Colla brothers were Roman trained auxiliaries or even Legionnaires. They used a Roman method of nomenclature, “tria nomina”, for their names and all the foundation myths mention that they had 300 battle trained followers.

The overall size of the Roman forces in Roman Britain grew from about 40,000 in the mid-1st century AD to a maximum of about 55,000 in the mid-2nd century. There were about 70 auxiliary regiments in Britain, for a total of over 40,000 men. These outnumbered the 16,500 legionaries in Britain (three Roman legions) by 2.5 to 1. The Auxiliary were mainly recruited from free provincial subjects who did not hold Roman citizenship.

So, the suggestion is that they were three centurions who hired themselves (and their men) out to the Southern Uí Néill to help in the invasion of Ulster.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

Various branches of the Ui Neill dynasty then successfully established themselves in separate kingdoms in Tyrone and Derry. The Collas got their reward in terms of territory to the south of that, but always subject to the over lordship of their original employers (who were now called the southern Ui Neill), based in Tara. It wasn't until about **650 AD** that the over lordship to which they were subject became that of the northern Ui Neill.

There is still an on-going debate over whether the Three Collas were of originally of Irish or British Celtic origin.

Apart from the fact that the **R1b-DF21** haplogroup originated in Britain, the **Airghialla** could have been part of a much earlier **Ciannachta** move to Ireland who then moved back to Britain at a later date.

However, the mounting genetic evidence supports the view that the progenitor of the Collas arose in Southern England. A cluster of **Z3000** DNA has been found in the Chester area of Cheshire in England. Historically Chester was a very important Roman Garrison Town, adding some weight to the Roman centurion theory.

The immediate Three Collas **Z3008** Haplogroup does seem to have originated in Britain.

However there is also **Z3000** Y-DNA present in Ulster that does not include the **Z3008** subclade. So perhaps they were already there as part of the Ciannachta or the Three Collas brought allied kin with them from Britain as part of the Invasion to supplement their own 300 men.

There is also a strong Colla DNA presence in Scotland, but it seems to be downstream of the Three Collas and linked to the **Dál Riata** kingdom of Ireland and Scotland that grew up in the 5th Century AD.

This brings me neatly to 'The Crisis of the Third Century':

The Crisis of the Third Century

To put the Goidelic invasion into context I think we need to look at what was happening in the Roman Empire in the 3rd Century AD. This is known in the history books as 'The Crisis of the Third Century', also known as 'Military Anarchy' or 'The Imperial Crisis'. It was a period in which Rome lost control of Britannia, Gaul and Hispania and the Roman Empire nearly collapsed.

260 AD to 270 AD

Starting about **250 AD**, the Franks made a series of incursions into Gaul and Hispania, Gaul by Land, Hispania by sea. In **260 AD** the city of Tàrraco (Tarragona in Catalonia) is sacked. The Roman commander opposing the Franks is **Marcus Cassianus Latinus Postumus**. He is a Romano-Celt of Batavian (modern Belgium/Netherlands) origin.

The same year **Postumus** declared himself as emperor of the western provinces. He was recognised in Britannia, Gaul and Hispania - the so-called Gallic Empire - while the 'true' emperor **Gallienus** retained power in the remaining provinces.

Postumus was murdered by his soldiers in **268 AD**, while trying to stop them plundering Mogontiacum (Mainz). **Gallienus** did not fare much better, he was assassinated, also in **268 AD**, besieging Mediolanum (Milan) while trying to defeat Aurelius, who had been declared emperor by the Roman legions based in Dacia.

After Postumus' death, Britannia and Gaul recognized his successors, but Hispania did not as the Gallic Empire had been unable to protect them from the Frankish attacks. The Gallic Empire also lost southern Gaul and Gallia Aquitania.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Crisis of the Third Century

270 AD to 286 AD

In **271 AD**, the governor of Gallia Aquitania, Gaius Pius Esuvius Tetricus was made Gallic Emperor, regaining Gallia Aquitania and parts of western Gallia Narbonensis. However in **274 AD** at the Battle of Châlons he was defeated by the Emperor Aurelian, Tetricus surrendered his provinces and the Gallic Empire came to an end.

Aurelian did not present his recapture of Gaul as a victory over a foreign enemy, and indeed many officials who had served in the army and administration of the Gallic Empire continued their careers, including Tetricus, who was appointed to an administrative post in Italy.

If this was not enough, the Roman Empire was ravaged by plague from about **250 AD to 270 AD**. It is known as 'The Plague of Cyprian', after St. Cyprian of Carthage who wrote about it. Its most famous casualty was probably Marcus Aurelius Claudius "Gothicus", also known as Claudius II, who was Roman emperor from **268 AD to 270 AD**, replacing **Gallienus**. He died after succumbing to a "pestilence" while campaigning in Gaul.

287 AD to 296 AD

Only 13 years later a second revolt broke out. Admiral of the Roman Channel fleet, **Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius** seized Britain and northern Gaul after being accused of corruption by the emperor Maximian. He was a Menapian from Belgic Gaul, he seems to have enjoyed strong local support and established an efficient administration. He held power for seven years, fashioning the name "Emperor of the North" for himself, before he was defeated by forces loyal to Rome and lost control of most of northern Gaul in **293 AD**.

He was then assassinated by his treasurer, **Allectus** (a Romano-Briton), who began building coastal defences in Britain to resist invasion - the so-called 'Saxon shore forts'. At this time, the Roman Empire was ruled by a group of four emperors called the 'Tetrarchy'. Maximian, the 'senior' emperor in charge of the west, sent his junior, Constantius Chlorus, to reclaim Britain. In **296 AD** Constantius defeated and killed **Allectus** in battle near Silchester (in Hampshire).

After 296 AD

Constantius spent the next ten years in Britain restoring Roman authority. When he died while campaigning in northern Britain in **306 AD**, his soldiers at Eboracum (York) hailed his young son, Constantine, emperor. After a period of civil war within the empire, Constantine defeated his remaining rival, Maxentius, at the Battle of Milvian Bridge (in Italy) in **312 AD**. He restored the rule of a single emperor in the west, overthrowing the 'Tetrarchy' system of rule by four emperors.

I believe that sometime during all the chaos in the Roman Empire, Túathal Techtmar and his men invaded Ireland. But where did they come from?

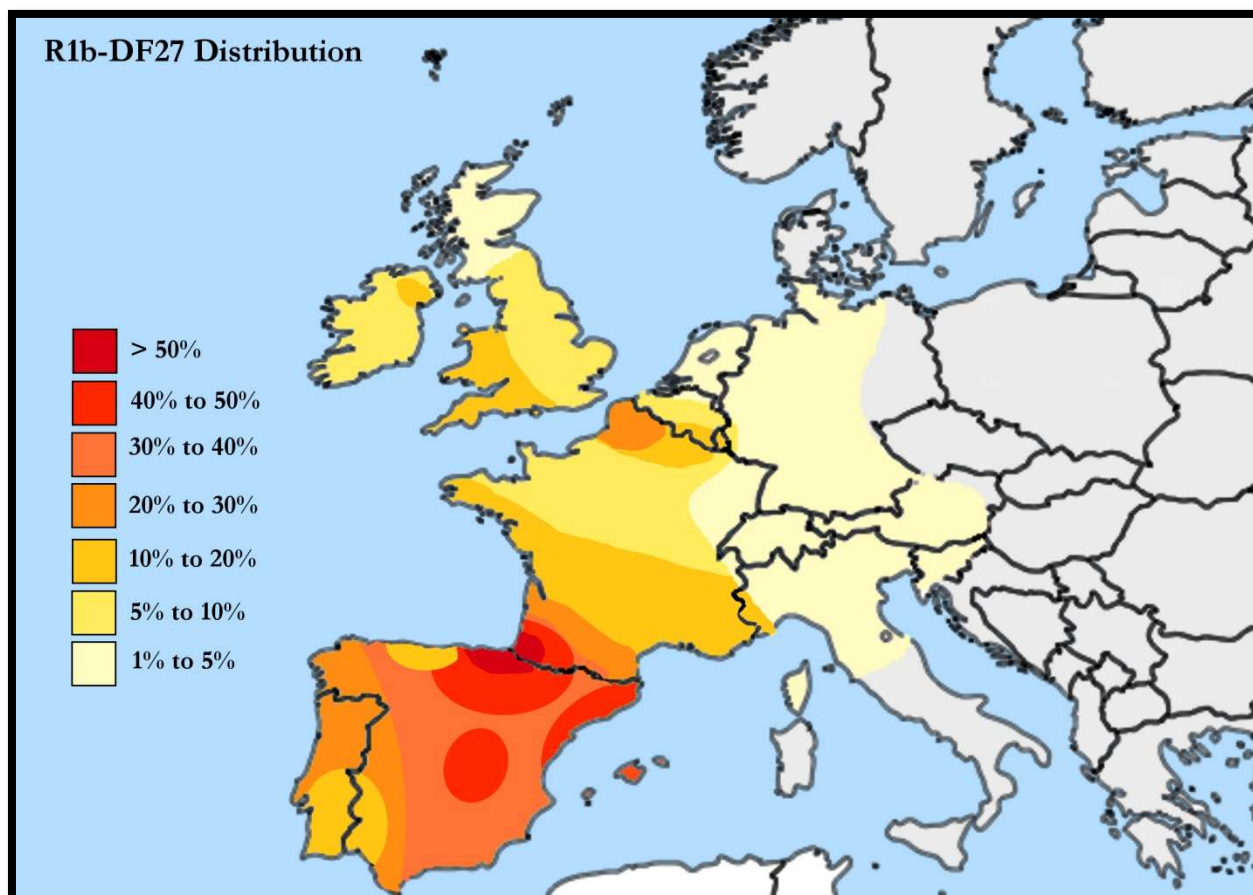
Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Seventh Wave – The Goidels (Continued)

The Goidels Origins

R1b-DF27 Y-DNA is concentrated in the following regions: the Basque Country, Navarre (also Basque), Asturias, Galicia, Portugal, Aragon and Catalonia. However it is also found in the Aquitaine region of France and along the coast of the Bay of Biscay up as far as Brittany.

The areas with the highest concentrations are the Basque Country and Navarre in Spain and southwest Aquitaine. We often hear about the Basque Country in Spain, but it actually straddles the Spanish-French border and includes three historic French provinces: Lower Navarre, Labourd, Soule and part of two others: Bayonne and Gramon.



R1b-DF27 DNA may be called Celtiberian, but in the case of Ireland they are more likely to have come from Gaul.

- T. F. O'Rahilly proposed that they came from the Aquitaine region of Gaul.
- Dáithí Ó hÓgáin reckoned that they were a branch of the Gaulish Veneti tribe from south-eastern Armorica (modern Brittany).

Pliny the Elder, in his Natural History (written about 78 AD) claims that Armorica was the older name for Aquitania, stating that Armorica's southern boundary extended to the Pyrenees. So in a way Professor Ó hÓgáin and Professor O'Rahilly could both be right.

Now that we know the Veneti were the Menapii and that both were of Haplogroup **R1b-L513**, this would seem to discount Professor Dáithí Ó hÓgáin hypothesis, but I have found a suitable alternative in northern Armorica.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

A case can be made for both of these proposals:

Aquitania:

- Had been under a series of raids by the Franks from about 250 AD
- Had rebelled in 260 AD
- Been re-conquered by the Roman Emperor in 268 AD
- Had rebelled again in 271 AD
- Been re-re-conquered by the Roman Emperor in 274 AD
- On top of this had suffered 20 years of plague.
- There is a higher concentration of **DF27** Y-DNA in Aquitaine than in Brittany

Armorica

- Had been under a series of raids by the Franks from about 250 AD
- Had rebelled in 260 AD
- Been re-conquered by the Roman Emperor in 274 AD
- Had rebelled again in 287 AD
- Been re-re-conquered by the Roman Emperor sometime between 293 AD and 296 AD
- On top of this had suffered 20 years of plague.
- There is **DF27** Y-DNA in Brittany, just not in as high concentrations as in Aquitaine

Of the two I think Armorica is a better fit, notwithstanding the greater **DF27** concentration in Aquitaine. If you add in the following:

- As Admiral of the Roman Channel fleet, Carausius troops would have come from both Britain and northern Gaul and he would have had a fleet. Access to ships being very useful when invading an island.
- It makes the link up with Romano-Britons like the Three Collas more feasible.
- Even after the defeat of Allectus in **296 AD**, the Romans were still fighting in northern Britain ten years later.

Interestingly, Professor Dáithí Ó hÓgáin also proposed that Tuathal Techtmar and the Goidels overthrew the kingship of the Laigin at Tara around **300 AD**, which ties in nicely with the foundation of kingdom of **Airghialla** by the Three Collas in **327 AD** and the collapse of Carausius' rebellion in **296 AD**

The Morini

The once Flemish speaking areas of Pas-de-Calais and Picardy in northern France appear to have a higher frequency of **DF27** than other regions around the English Channel and North Sea. In the pre-Roman era this region was the home of the Morini Tribe.

The Morini, Atrebates and the Ambiani were pushed across the Rhine in BC 3rd century and formed a confederation of tribes. They established themselves in the Pas-de-Calais region.

During the Roman invasion of Belgica in BC 57, the Morini tribe contributed 25,000 warriors to fight under the Suessiones head chieftain Galba. In BC 56 the tribe supplied warriors to help the Veneti. After suffering defeats at the hands of the Romans they rebelled in BC 55 but were subdued again. However, they still managed to supply 5,000 warriors to fight the Romans during the siege of Alesia in BC 52.

The Morini and the Menapii were the last two tribes of Gaul to be conquered by the Romans. Throughout the Roman invasion of Gaul the Morini, Menapii and the Armorican tribes always supported each other. The name of the Morini is itself a variation of the form Armorici indicating that they also had a presence in, or originated from, Armorica.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Venelli

I have already mentioned Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, having a known **DF27** lineage. The family name is said to have come from Bruis, now Brix, near Cherbourg in the Cotentin Peninsula.

DF27 Y-DNA has also been found in burials dated from around 150 BC in the 'La Tène' necropolis of Urville-Nacqueville. This site, located in the Cotentin, has been interpreted as a commercial and craft centre. The Cotentin peninsula was the home of the **Venelli** Tribe.

The Venelli territory was in Normandy with several fortresses including one at Le Petit Celland in Avranches, at the base of the Cotentin peninsula. Sometime between 6th and 5th century BC the Abrincatui to their south became their client.

The Venelli were part of the Veneti Alliance against the Romans. After the Veneti defeat Caesar stationed troops in the Venelli. The Venelli chieftain Viridovix rebelled and became the war leader of a force which included the Aulerci, the Ebuovices and the Lexovii tribes. However they were defeated by the Romans in 56 BC. In BC 52 the Venelli contributed warriors to attack the rear of the Roman siege army at Alesia.

In BC 49 the Romans forced the Venelli to dissolve the client relationship with the Abrincatui.

My theory is that the **Venelli** and the **Morini** were the **R1b-DF27** Tribes that led the invasion of Ireland. Both were established seafaring Celts and would have provided a fair portion of **Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius'** Channel fleet. Having been punished by Caesar in 52 BC for previous rebellions, they did not want to stick around for punishment this time around.

In his book *The Celts: A History*, Dáithí Ó hÓgáin suggested that either the Veneti or the Venelli where an Irish tribe called the **Venii**, before coming down on the side of the Veneti. Knowing what we now know about the Veneti-Menapii link, I believe it is more likely that the **Venii** were the **Venelli**.

The **R1b-DF27 Y-DNA** in the Uí Cheinnselaig Sept DNA is probably an indication that some of the Venelli who took part in the Laigin Invasion as they were also part of the Veneti Alliance in 58 BC. So they probably already had a link to Ireland. According to Professor Ó hÓgáin the Venii were well established in the south of Ireland in the 2nd century AD,

The Fenian Connection

As the Celtic spoken in Ireland became the Gaelic language, **Venii** changed to **Féni**, and the Venii's name for themselves became the **Gáidhil** or the **Goidel** - terms from which are derived the words **Fenians** and **Gaels**.

The **Fenian Cycle** focuses on the exploits of the mythical hero Finn McCool or Fionn mac Cumhaill and the Fianna. The Fianna were a band of warriors who were also known as a military order composed mainly of the members of two rival clans, "Clan Bascna" and "Clan Morna". They were a warrior caste and acted as the household troops of the High Kings.

Now re-imagine this tale through the lens of the Goidels invasion

- The Fianna = a warrior caste = Trained Roman Auxiliary Legionnaires
- Clan Bascna = The Venelli
- Clan Morna = The Morini

The 'Invasion' may not even have been an invasion as such, but the hiring out of a warrior caste by the Irish losers in the Laigin Invasion to regain lost land and power in return for land for the Goidels to settle on, it certainly explains the deals they concluded with the Ciannachta, Connachta and Éóganachta.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Size of the Goidel Force

Individual Roman Army auxiliary regiments tended to be composed of members of the same clans. The invading army seems to have consisted of members of about four closely related Venelli Clans, two other related Armorican Clans (probably Morini) and one British Celtic Clan.

We will probably never know if the invasion happened as one major event or in stages. I suspect that after Mide was established and the Lagenians in the area defeated a series of strategic alliances were struck.

A Roman Legion had about 5,000 men, consisting of 10 cohorts of about 500 men each. The **Airgíalla** had 300 men and some auxiliary troops, they were probably asked along because the Venelli needed extra men. The need for these alliances suggests to me that the invaders were not strong enough on their own to defeat the Lagenians. The whole invading force could have been as small as one or two Legions, but all seasoned veterans.

Based on the lesser Y-DNA presence I believe that they were an elite fighting force rather than a mass migration. Their families probably arrived soon afterwards, but many of the soldiers would have been single and intermarried into the existing Irish population,

One thing to make clear, the Goidels were not Celtic tribes in the same sense as the Irish Tribes was Celtic. These were Romanised Celts who were serving in the Roman Army. But in similar fashion to the Normans who came after them they ended up 'More Irish than the Irish themselves'

So it looks like Ireland was invaded by Roman Legionnaires after all, just not by the Roman Empire. It might also explain some of the Roman artefacts found in Ireland and why Christianity took off so easily in Ireland.

Saint Palladius was the first bishop of the Christians of Ireland from 408 AD to 431 AD. He preceded Saint Patrick, but basically restricted his ministry to Mide and northern Laigin, the original areas taken over by the Goidel Invasion. Coincidentally (or not), Palladius was also from Armorica.

The city of Armagh is the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland. This leading status is based on the belief that the Archbishopric of Armagh was founded by St. Patrick. Armagh is also in an area controlled by the Goidels, in this case the Airghialla and the Northern Uí Néill.

Túathal Techtmar

The Goidelic invasion is thought to have been led by Túathal Techtmar, who was said to be the ancestor of the Uí Néill and Connachta dynasties through his grandson Conn of the Hundred Battles.

According to medieval Irish legend and historical tradition; Túathal Techtmar was son of Fiachu Finnolach, a previous High King of Ireland who deposed by an uprising. Túathal had gone into exile and returned at the head of an army to reclaim his father's throne. The Annals of the Four Masters gives the date of Túathal's exile as **56 AD**, his return as **76 AD** and his death as **106 AD**.

T. F. O'Rahilly suggested that, as in many such "returned exile" stories, Túathal represented an entirely foreign invasion which established a dynasty in Ireland and that his origin story had been fabricated to give him an Irish origin to link him to all the other mythical and semi-mythical kings. He pushed the dates of Túathal's invasion back to between **200 BC and 100 BC**.

Professor Dáithí Ó hÓgáin agreed with O'Rahilly that Túathal Techtmar represented the Goidelic invasion. But disagreed on when the invasion happened, as I mentioned earlier, he proposed that Tuathal Techtmar overthrew the kingship of the Laigin at Tara around **300 AD**.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

Mide

The main invasion fleet may have landed in Dublin or Meath and pushed inland to Tara, where they carved out a new province for themselves that became known as **Mide** (Meath).

After **Mide** was established and the Lagenians in the area defeated a series of strategic alliances were struck. The 'Invasion' may not even have been an invasion as such, but the hiring out of a warrior caste by the losers in the Laigin Invasion to regain lost land and power in return for land for the Goidels to settle on.

As part of these arrangements the **Ciannachta** regained power and reclaimed land under the overlordship of the **Venelli** in **Mide** and gained new lands in South Leinster and the **Connachta** regained power in Ulster and consolidated their hold on Connacht.

The Venelli in Mide eventually became known as the **Southern Uí Néill**.

While **Mide** takeover probably happened immediately, the rest of the Goidel gains probably happened over time.

The Northern Advances

In alliance with the **Connachta**, the Goidels established the **Airgíalla** in Ulster, pushing the **Ulaid** back east of the Bann with just the Three Collas and one of the Venelli Clans. The **Connachta** got back some land in Ulster (Donegal, West Tyrone and Derry) and help in retaking Galway/Mayo from the **Dál gCais**. The **Uí Maine** arrival in Connacht in about **375 AD** may have been part of that arrangement.

This coalition may be behind the myths that **Connachta** were part of the Goidel Invasion and that the **Uí Maine** were said to be descended from Colla dá Críoch (one of the Three Collas). But we know from the DNA evidence that the **Uí Maine** were in fact part of the **Connachta**, just not **R1b-M222** Connachta.

It was this combined force that defeated the **Ulaid**. The **Fir Managh** managed to hang on in Fermanagh and acknowledged **Connachta Cenél nEógain** overlordship, but the **Benntraige** were pushed back out of Tyrone and into Breifne where they were under the **Connachta Clan Uí Briúin Breifne**.

The **Venelli** in Ulster, who eventually became the **Northern Uí Néill**, joined the **Connachta Cenél nEógain** Clan. Over time, the Northern Uí Néill came to dominate **Cenél nEógain**. Surnames only began to develop in Ireland sometime in the tenth century, so by the time Cenél nEógain became the O'Neills, the Northern Uí Néill were well entrenched in Ulster. The majority of Cenél nEógain still remained with Connachta Y-DNA even several with the O'Neill surname.

The Southern Advances

Bressal Bélach was a 5th century King of Leinster until about 436 AD. He was King of Leinster for 44 years. It was claimed he was a descendant of Cathair Már, King of Leinster (120 AD – 123 AD). So he was King of Leinster about 392 AD. **Bressal Bélach** has **DF27 Y-DNA**.

The **Venelli** pushed south through Offaly and Laois and took over some of the northern territories of the **Osraighe** and created the **Uí Failghe** Kingdom on the border between the new Kingdom of **Mide** and the old **Laigin** kingdom in South Leinster.

The main clans were Mac Giolla Phádraig, O'hAonghusa, Ó Caomhánaigh, Ó Duinn, Ó Díomasaigh, Ó Duibhir, Muintear Riain, Ó Conchúir and Ó Tuathalaigh. Or, in English: Fitzpatrick, Hennessy, Kavanagh, Dunne (O'Regan), Dempsey, O'Dwyer, Ryan, O'Connor and Twohy

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

When we examine Y-DNA for these surnames we find some **DF27 Y-DNA** of the **Venelli** in the **O'Connor**, **O'Dwyer** and **Ryan** septs, all related to the DNA of **Bressal Bélach**. These 3 surnames and all the others also have some **Laigin** and/or **Dál gCais Y-DNA**, except for Twohy who is mainly **Eóganachta**. Only the **O'Connor's** also have **Ciannachta** Y-DNA. This means it was mainly a straight Venelli takeover.

The Venelli also took over the **Uí Cheinnselaig** sept to take over the Laigin and become the Kings of Leinster. You can tell this by the variety of **DF27 DNA** in **Uí Cheinnselaig** descendants.

This may have been a hostile takeover of the **Uí Cheinnselaig** by the **Goidel**. However if the **Uí Cheinnselaig** were already part Venelli from the time of the Laiginian invasion, it would explain why they joined the **Goidels** against the other Laigin.

The formation of new kingdoms in South Leinster was the **Ciannachta's** reward to compensate them for the losses in Mide. As part of the Goidelic invasion the **Eóganachta** were said to have landed at a place called Inber Scéne, usually identified with Kenmare River in the southwest of the country.

The **Ciannachta** who would become the **Eóganacht Chaisil** and the **Éile** were landed in Kerry and attacked the **Dál gCais** from the west, eventually founding a new Kingdom in Cashel. The **Eóganacht Chaisil** was a mixed clan with **Ciannachta** and **Eóganachta** DNA so they had at least some **Eóganachta** help.

The **Loígis** (another **Ciannachta Clan**) also gained some former **Osraighe** territory. Their arrival from Ulster is also probably related to the Goidelic invasion. Similar to the Connachta **Uí Maine** moving to Galway as part of the **Goidel-Connachta** deal, **The Loígis** moving to Laois was part of the **Goidel-Ciannachta** deal. Both of these migrations also freed up land for the **Three Collas** to take over territory in Ulster.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow identifies two clearly marked periods in Irish colonial history in Wales. The first incursion he believes came from the **Déisi** and their allies the **Ui Laithain** around the late 300s.AD when they took over **Dyfed**. The Surname Gleeson of the **Uí Meic Caille**, who was a sub-sept of the **Ui Laithain** has both **Dál gCais** and **Laigin Y-DNA**. It is worth noting that the Manapii had settlements in **Dyfed** and some of the Laigin forces may have come from there originally, so maybe they were just going home or rejoining related tribes.

The Expulsion of the Déisi, the origin-legend of the **Déisi Muman** tells the story of their expulsion from Meath, their sojourn in Leinster, and finally their settlement south of Cashel. The **Dál gCais** of **Osraighe** had to cede a swath of its southern territory to the displaced and incoming **Déisi** sometime around **450AD**.

Both these events were probably consequences of the Goidel Invasion.

Dál gCais territories were all reduced and they became vassals to the **Eóganacht Chaisil** in Munster and to the new kingdom of **Mide** in North Leinster.

If not a formal alliance, the **Goidels** at least seem to have had an arrangement with the **Eóganachta**. They did not attack **Eóganachta** lands and it looks like they gave the **Eóganachta** a free hand with the weakened **Dál gCais** kingdoms. Sometime before 489 AD the **Corcu Loígde** of south Munster overthrew the **Dál Birn** and took control of southern **Osraighe**, leaving the **Dál Birn** in just control of their remaining northern territory. The wandering **Déisi** and the ousting of the **Dál Birn** in the 400's AD are just two indications that the Goidel Invasion left lingering issues that took some time to work through.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The O'Neill Surname

Niall of the Nine Hostages was a semi-mythical Irish king who was the ancestor of the Uí Néill dynasties. Irish annalistic and chronicle sources place his reign in the late 4th and early 5th centuries. The Annals of the Four Masters dates his reign as King of Tara from **379 AD to 405 AD**

While I do not agree with O'Rahilly on the dates of the Invasion, I do agree with him on his 'returned exile' theory about Túathal Techtmar. Like Tuathal Techtmar, Niall also has a 'returned exile' origin story. He went away, he came back and he became high king.

Eochaid Mugmedón, the High King of Ireland, had five sons: Four, Brión, Ailill, Fiachrae and Fergus, by his first wife Mongfind, sister of the king of Munster, Crimthann mac Fidaig; and a fifth, Niall, by his second wife Cairenn Chasdub, daughter of Sachell Balb, king of the Saxons. While Cairenn is pregnant with Niall, the jealous Mongfind forces her to do heavy work, hoping to make her miscarry. She gives birth as she is drawing water, but out of fear of Mongfind, she leaves the child on the ground, exposed to the birds. The baby is rescued and brought up by a poet called Torna. When Niall grows up, he returns to Tara and rescues his mother from her labour.

*Summary from Wikipedia who sources it to **Echtra mac nEchach Muigmedóin 'The adventures of the sons of Eochaid Muigmedóin'** an 11th-century tale*

Collectively, Brión, Ailill and Fiachrae where the Connachta, to me, this seems like an attempt to graft Niall into a long-established Irish Dynasty and provide a link between the Connachta and the Northern Uí Néill.

M222 is sometimes referred to as the 'Niall of the Nine Hostages' DNA marker. However its age has been estimated at about 100 BC and it is well established couldn't be from Niall.

But more than that, I do not think that 'Niall of the Nine Hostages' is even from that DNA pool. I think the O'Neills are **R1b>DF27** not from **R1b>M222** at all.

The fact that Clannaboy O'Neills, O'Neill of the Fews and the Tyrone O'Neills all have **R1b>DF27 Y-DNA** seems to support this and that's without counting the **R1b>DF27 Y-DNA** of the Clan Shanes and the O'Maolchalann Septs.

After the successful foundation of **Airgíalla** by the Three Collas and the Northern Uí Néill, over time, the Northern Uí Néill came to dominate Cenél nEógain. Surnames only began to develop in Ireland sometime in the tenth century, so by the time Cenél nEógain became the O'Neills, the Northern Uí Néill were well entrenched in Ulster.

When I was researching the Venelli I found an interesting fact, In Caesars Gallic Wars he does not call them the Venelli, he calls them **the Unelli**. A French language map of Gallic tribes that I found on-line called them **Les Unelles**. Translate the Latin plural ending and the French plural ending into English and you get '**The Unells**'

So maybe we are not looking at the **Northern Uí Néill** and the **Southern Uí Néill** at all, but at the **Northern Unell** and the **Southern Unell**.

Similarly, Niall of the Nine Hostages becomes 'The Unell of the Nine Hostages', with 'The Unell' being the title of the leader of Clan Unell.

The great Hugh O'Neill (1550-1616) was the second Earl of Tyrone; Hugh O'Neill was inaugurated as "The O'Neill" in 1595, resurrecting a title that had been used in the past.

Like **Conn of the Hundred Battles** and the **Connachta**, **Eógan Mór** and the **Eóganachta**, Niall may have been named after his tribe rather than the other way round.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

Consequences of the Second Armorican invasion

So, in the period of about a hundred years, the Goidels had:

- Carved out a brand-new Province, **Mide**
- Overthrown the **Laigin** and become the Kings of **Laigin**
- Helped the **Airgíalla** carve out a new client kingdom in **Ulster**
- Helped the **Connachta** regain some of the land lost in Ulster
- Helped the **Connachta** push the **Dál gCais** out of **Galway**.
- Helped the **Ciannachta** regain control of Louth from the Ulaid.
- Helped the **Ciannachta and Eóganachta** carve out a new client kingdom based in **Cashel**

Three new hybrid Kingdoms emerged:

- A **Connachta-Goidel** kingdom in Derry-West Tyrone. This became the **Northern Uí Néill** and over time it became the leading Clan in a confederation with the **Airgíalla** and the other **Connachta** in Ulster.
- An **Uí Failghe-Goidel** kingdom in mid-Leinster
- A **Goidel-Laigin** kingdom in Laigin.
- The **Eóganacht Chaisil** kingdom in North Munster. They were a part **Eóganachta**, part **Ciannachta**. Associated with them in their new Kingdom were the **Éile** and the **Loígis** – Both **Ciannachta**.

If my theory of the two Armorican Invasions is correct, it may be at least a partial explanation of the "Irish Dark Age" which lasted from about 100 BC to about 300 AD. There is nothing like war to depress economic activity and to reduce the population, either via death or selling defeated foes into slavery.

Culturally, the Laginians of the first Armorican Invasion would have been similar to the tribes they replaced and may have already had trading settlements in Ireland.

The Goidels would have been Romano-Celts, though still Celts. Based on the lesser Y-DNA presence I propose that they were an elite, replacing an existing elite, rather than a mass migration. But similar the Normans who came after them they ended up 'More Irish than the Irish themselves'

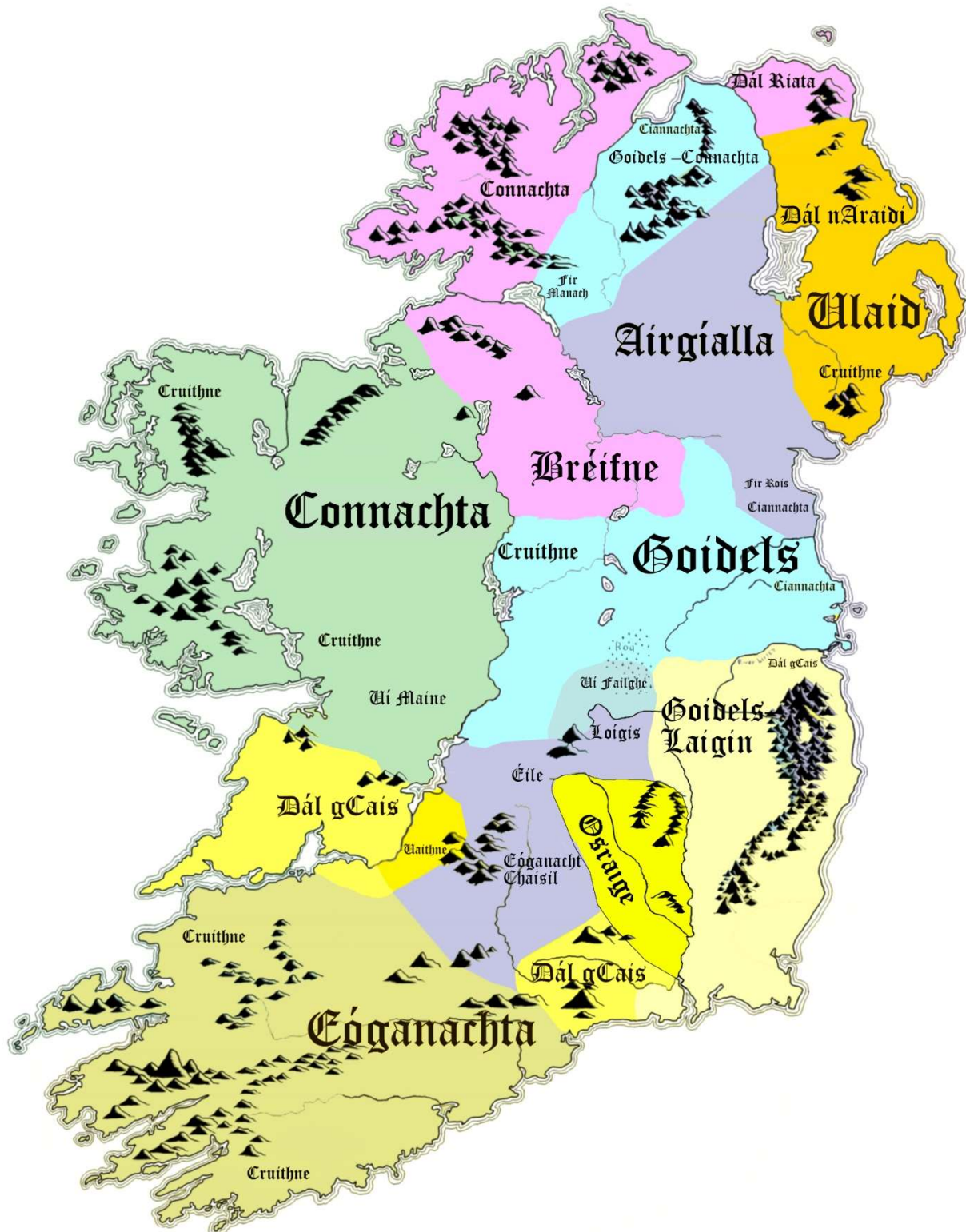
So it looks like Ireland was invaded by Roman Legionnaires after all, just not by the Roman Empire. It might also explain some of the Roman artefacts found in Ireland and why Christianity took off so easily in Ireland. This new elite were probably already Christianised; this would have helped to facilitate the introduction of Christianity into Ireland.

Saint Palladius was the first bishop of the Christians of Ireland from 408 AD to 431 AD. He preceded Saint Patrick, but basically restricted his ministry to Mide and northern Laigin, the original areas taken over by the Goidel Invasion. Coincidentally (or not), Palladius was also from Armorica.

The city of Armagh is the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland. This leading status is based on the belief that the Archbishopric of Armagh was founded by St. Patrick. Armagh is also in an area controlled by the Goidels, in this case the Airghialla and the Northern Uí Néill.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

Ireland Around 400 A.D.



Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

Composite Model Summary

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

New Composite Historical Model Hypothesis

There were seven waves of people who settled in Ireland during its pre-history

There were four initial migrations and three later invasions

The four migrations were:

- Circa 9,500 BC to circa 3,000 BC - **The Original Stone Age Settlers**
- Circa 2,500 BC - **The Cruithne** - The Bell-Beakers from the Iberian Peninsula
- Circa 2,000 BC to circa 1,000 BC - **The Dáirine** from northern Britain
- Circa 1,200 BC to circa 600 BC - **The Érainn** from Belgic Gaul.

The three invasions were:

- Circa 450 BC - **The Scoti** – from Scotland
- Circa 50 BC - **The Laigin** – from Armorica in Gaul
- Circa 300 AD - **The Goidel (Gaels)** – from Armorica and Britain.

These three invasions were the historical basis behind the first three cycles of Irish mythology

- The struggle between the **Scoti** and the **Érainn** are the historical base on which **the Mythological Cycle** of the **Leabhar Gabhála Érenn** was built. The **Fir Bolg** are the **Érainn** and the **Tuatha Dé Danann** represents the **Scoti**.
- The struggle between the **Connachta** and the **Ulaí** for control of Ulster is the historical base on which **the Ulster Cycle** of the **Leabhar Gabhála Érenn** was built.
- The **Fenian Cycle** of the **Leabhar Gabhála Érenn** focuses on the exploits of the mythical hero Finn McCool or Fionn mac Cumhaill and the Fianna.

The Fianna were a band of warriors who were also known as a military order composed mainly of the members of two rival clans, "Clan Bascna" and "Clan Morna". They were a warrior caste and acted as the household troops of the High Kings.

Now re-imagine this tale through the lens of the Goidels invasion

- The Fianna = a warrior caste = Trained Roman Auxiliary Legionnaires
- Clan Bascna = The Venelli
- Clan Morna = The Morini

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Original Stone Age Settlers

- People have been in Ireland since about **9,500 BC**, they were Hunter-Gatherers.
- Evidence of agricultural activity has been dated from around **4,500 BC**.
- It was these Neolithic people who built the great megalithic monuments in Ireland.
- A climate downturn from around **3,500 BC** pushed the Neolithic populations in Europe into a thousand-year-long decline.

The Cruithne Migrations

- Between 3,000 BC and 2,500 BC, a new people started to arrive in Ireland from the Iberian Peninsula, the people of the Bell Beaker culture.
- By about 2,500 BC, the newcomers replaced about 90% of the original inhabitants of Ireland.
- It is likely by the newcomers brought disease(s) with them like smallpox, the plagues of the Book of Invasions.
- It was the Bell Beakers who introduced Bronze Age culture into Ireland. The Bell Beakers were the basic population of most of Europe before the arrival of the Indo-European peoples like the Greeks and Celts into Europe.
- It is these people who became the Cruithne in Ireland and the Picts in Britain.
- The **Cruithne** are probably the **Fomorians** of Ancient myth.
- Connacht (and people with Clan names associated with Connacht) has the greatest concentration of people with pre-Celtic Iron Age Y-DNA markers.

The Dáirine Migrations

- The **Ciannachta** were the first set of Celtic tribes to arrive in Ireland, they were already there by 2,000 BC.
- The **Ciannachta** are probably the **Dáirine** of ancient myth, who were considered part of the **Érainn** but distinct from the Eóganachta who rose to prominence much later in the south
- The **Ciannachta** came from Britain and originally settled in Ulster and North Leinster.
- This was probably not an invasion, rather a migration over time. Not all the tribes would necessarily have migrated at the same time, or from the same places.
- The **Ciannachta** are probably the **Eblani** tribe named by Ptolemy in his Geography.
- Some **Cruithne** continued to exist as separate Septs in Celtic Ireland; others got absorbed into blended **Dáirine/Cruithne** Septs.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Érainn Migrations

- The **Érainn** are the **Fir Bolg** of Ancient myth, they were a Bronze Age people and part of the Hallstatt culture.
- The first of the Érainn tribes arrived between 1,200 BC and 1,000 BC
- Ireland would have been sparsely populated at that time so there was plenty of space for new peoples, so it was probably mainly peaceful.
- Notable tribes who were of Érainn origin are:
 - The **Eóganachta** of Munster and North Leinster
 - The **Ulaoid** of Ulster
 - The **Benntraige** who were allies of the **Ulaoid**
- The west of Ireland remained in **Cruithne** hands
- The **Eóganachta** of Munster were named as the **Iverni** and the **Vellaboroi** by Ptolemy in his Geography in 140 AD. These names are similar to two related Belgic tribes, the **Arverni** and the **Vellavi** who left their Belgic homeland sometime between 1,200 BC and 700 BC and moved into Central France. Some of them may have moved to Ireland at the same time.
- The **Voluntii** was Ptolemy's name for the **Ulaoid**.
- The **Ulaoid** are **Menapii**, but their expanded settlement in Ulster probably came much later than their original settlements in Ireland.
- The **Menapii** were the major sea-going power among the Belgae. They probably provided the transport for the **Arverni** and **Vellavi** and in return set up **Ivernis** as a trading outpost protected by the **Arverni**. It was probably their first trading post in Ireland.
- The **Menapii** were known to have established multiple trading ports both along both sides of the Channel and on both sides of the Irish Sea starting around the 6th Century BC.
- The **Menapii** seem to have been the Celtic equivalent of the Vikings – Sea Raiders and Traders - with their settlements in many cases buried beneath the later, larger Viking Settlements. The notable exception being the one found at Drumanagh near Loughshinny in county Dublin
- In Ireland the Menapii set up at least 4 trading settlements on the East Coast, which were large enough to be mentioned by Ptolemy.
 - **Ivernis** (Ard Nemid (Great Island , Cork city), the port of the **Iverni**)
 - **Manapia** (Near Wexford Town)
 - **Eblana** (Drumanagh, County Dublin (**Druim Monach** – The ridge of the Monaig))
 - **Isamnium** (near Dundalk, in the territory of the **Voluntii**)
- The **Benntraige** were named as the **Coriondi** by Ptolemy, they were allies to the **Menapii** and acted as border guards for the Menapii settlements.
- The **Dáirine** and the **Érainn** would have spoken the Q-Celtic language from which modern Gaelic is descended.
- In Ireland the Bronze Age lasted until about **500 BC**, later than continental Europe and Britain

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Scoti Invasion

- The struggle between the **Scoti** and the **Érainn** are the historical base on which **the Mythological Cycle** of the **Leabhar Gabhála Éirenn** was built. The **Fir Bolg** are the **Érainn** and the **Tuatha Dé Danann** represents the **Scoti**.
- The Scoti were the term the Romans used for the northern Irish tribes associated with the **Dál Riata** who raided their British provinces, they later expanded the term to include all the Irish Raiders. It seemed appropriate to use here considering that the DNA evidence shows that they all have Brythonic Celtic Scottish roots.
- The **Scoti** who came via Scotland were from the newer La Tène culture. Based on La Tène artefacts found they would have arrived in Ireland about **450 BC**.
- It was the **Scoti** who brought Iron Age technology and weaponry to Bronze Age Ireland
- There were two groups of **Scoti**, one group on the east coast of Ulster around Antrim and North Down and the other on the west coast around Donegal and Derry. Over time they became the following Septs:
 - The **Dál Riata** on the east coast
 - The **Connachta** on the west coast
- It is possible that the Dál Riata arrived in Ireland much earlier than the Connachta due to the proximity of the north Antrim coast to Argyle in Scotland.
- The **Connachta** were eventually sub-divided into; The **Northern Uí Néill**, the **Uí Briúin** and the **Uí Maine**
- The **Connachta** came to dominate much of Connacht and all of Ulster west of the Bann. In historical times Ulster also included territory in modern Louth.
- The Dál Riata are Ptolemy's **Robogdii**. They were the **Epidii** who came from Argyle to Antrim/North Down.
- The Connachta in Donegal and Derry are Ptolemy's **Vennicii**.
- The **Vennicii** were the **Venicones**, a tribe whom Ptolemy listed in the region of Fife on the east coast of Scotland, the territories of the Epidii and Venicones in Scotland are adjacent to each other.
- The **Uí Maine** are Ptolemy's **Erpeditani**. In Scotland, the most likely contender to be the Erpeditani are the **Taexali** who lived to the east of the Venicones and with whom they shared many cultural elements that were not shared with other surrounding tribes.

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The First Armorican Invasion

- Three tribal groups are named in existing records about the Lagenian Invaders. These names are the Laigin, the Domnainn and the Gálioín and according to their own traditions, they came to Ireland from Armorica (comprised Brittany and western Normandy to the Seine estuary).
- In 56 BC, Caesar defeated a coalition of Armorican tribes lead by the Veneti. After the defeat Caesar decided to make an example of the Veneti. He executed the tribal elders, the Veneti who survived the battle were sold into slavery and their children were mutilated. Though much diminished the tribe as such survived and is this attested in imperial times by other Roman authors.
- This defeat and its aftermath triggered the Laigin Invasion. The **Veneti**, the **Osismii**, the **Aulerci-Eburones**, the **Coriosolites** and possibly some other elements of the Anti-Roman alliance gathered their tribes and headed into Irish exile.
- The **Menapii** and **Coriondi** already had settlements in Ireland so they formed readymade bridgeheads for the invasion. The Invasion probably took place on four fronts, based on natural harbours.
- The **Gálioín** were the main Armorican element of the invasion. They are most likely the **Osismii** from what is now called the Breton Peninsular in France.
- The **Osismii** became the **Cauci**, the **Usdiae** and the **Gangani** (all **Dál gCais**)
- Traditionally, the **Laigin** have been identified as the Manapii, the Brigantes and the Coriondi on Ptolemy's map.
 - The **Aulerci-Éburons** became the **Brigantes (Laigin)**
 - The **Veneti/Menapii** became part of the **Manapii** and the **Voluntii (Ulaid)**
 - The **Coriosolites** became part of the **Coriondi (Benntraige)**
- The **Ulaid** used the Lagenian invasion to expand from their east of the Bann heartland to take over most of Ulster. In addition to **Veneti** refugees from Armorica, they may have been joined by additional Menapii from Britain and the Isle of Man for this expansion.
- The struggle between the **Connachta** and the **Ulaid** in Ulster is the historical base on which **the Ulster Cycle** of the **Leabhar Gabhála Éirenn** was built.
- The **Uaithne** were the **Domnainn**, they were partially of Armorican origin and partially from the southwest of England, the name tallies quite closely with the **Dumnonii** a British tribe who inhabited **Dumnonia**, the area now known as Devon and Cornwall.
- I think the push north to take Galway and west Mayo may have happened at a later date after they were well established.
- The kingdom of Osraighe was founded by a mixed combination of **Laigin**, **Dál gCais**, **Ulaid** and **Benntraige** septs

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Second Armorican Invasion

- During the 'The Crisis of the Third Century' the Roman Empire nearly collapsed. A 'Gallic Empire' was set up by rogue Roman Commanders consisting of Britannia, Gaul and Hispania in **260 AD** with Rome only regaining control in **274 AD**. Only 13 years later a second revolt broke out. Admiral of the Roman Channel fleet, Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius seized Britain and northern Gaul. He held power for seven years, fashioning the name "Emperor of the North" for himself, before he was defeated by forces loyal to Rome and lost control of most of northern Gaul in **293 AD**. He was then assassinated by his treasurer, **Allectus** (a Romano-Briton), who held power until defeated and killed in battle near Silchester (in Hampshire) in **296 AD**.
- Out of this chaos, the second Armorican invasion of Ireland was born. Probably shortly after the assignation of Carausius, some elements of Carausius' fleet decided to strike out on their own.
- The Goidels who Invaded Ireland were an elite fighting force rather than a mass migration. Their families probably arrived soon afterwards, but many of the soldiers would have been single and intermarried into the existing Irish population.
- The Goidels were not Celtic tribes in the same sense as the Irish Tribes was Celtic. These were Romanised Celts who were serving in the Roman Army. But in similar fashion to the Normans who came after them they ended up 'More Irish than the Irish themselves'
- Individual Roman Army auxiliary regiments tended to be composed of members of the same clans. The invading army seems to have consisted of members of about four closely related **Venelli** Clans, two other related Gallic Clans (probably the **Morini**) and one British Celtic Clan.
- The driving force behind this seems to have been a Romano-Celtic tribe called the **Venelli** who lived on the Cotentin Peninsula in Armorica (Modern day Normandy)
- The **Venelli** were a seafaring people and would have provided a fair portion of Carausius' Channel Fleet. Further east was another related seafaring clan called the **Morini**.
- The British Celtic Clan involved became known in Ireland as the **Airghialla** of Mid Ulster, founded by three brothers known as '**The Three Collas**' in the lands of the Ulaid.
- In Ireland the **Venelli** became known as the **Venii**. As the Celtic spoken in Ireland became the Gaelic language, **Venii** changed to **Féni**, and the Venii's name for themselves became the **Gáidhil** or the **Goidel**- terms from which are derived **Fenians** and **Gaels**.
- The **Fenian Cycle** of the **Leabhar Gabhála Éirenn** focuses on the exploits of the mythical hero Finn McCool or Fionn mac Cumhaill and the Fianna.

The Fianna were a band of warriors who were also known as a military order composed mainly of the members of two rival clans, "Clan Bascna" and "Clan Morna". They were a warrior caste and acted as the household troops of the High Kings.

Now re-imagine this tale through the lens of the Goidels invasion

- The Fianna = a warrior caste = Trained Roman Auxiliary Legionnaires
- Clan Bascna = The Venelli
- Clan Morna = The Morini
- The main invasion fleet may have landed in Dublin or Meath and pushed inland to Tara. Where they carved out a new province for themselves that eventually became known as Mide (Meath).
- The Venelli in Mide became the **Southern Uí Néill**

Composite Historical Model of Irish Pre-History

The Second Armorian Invasion (Continued)

After **Mide** was established and the Leginians in the area defeated a series of strategic alliances were struck. The 'Invasion' may not even have been an invasion as such, but the hiring out of a warrior caste by the losers in the Laigin Invasion to regain lost land and power in return for land for the Goidels to settle on

Ulaid and Connacht

- One of the **Venelli** Clans and **the Three Collas** pushed north into Ulaid, this could have been on land or a separate landing at Dundalk or Carlingford Lough.
- The **Ulaid** were defeated and pushed back to their Heartland, east of the Bann.
- The **Fir Managh** managed to hang on in Fermanagh and acknowledged **Connachta** overlordship, but the **Benntraige** were pushed back out of Tyrone and into **Breifne**
- Over time this particular branch of the **Venelli** became the **Northern Uí Néill**, this was a combined **Venelli/Connachta** sept under the leadership of the **Cenél Eóghain**
- **The Three Collas** carved a new kingdom called **Airgialla** in Mid-Ulster with the **Northern Uí Néill** to their North and the **Connachta** to their west.
- The **Connachta** allied themselves with the **Three Collas** and the **Venelli** to help defeat the **Ulaid**. In return they got some of the land back that they had lost to the Ulaid and received help in consolidating their grip on Connacht, with the **Uí Maine** moving south to occupy Galway.
- The **Connachta** pushed the **Uaithne** out of Connacht and back to the **Dál gCais** heartlands.

Mumhan and Laigin

- Some of the **Ciannachta** – who became the **Eóganacht Chaisil** and the **Éile** – now allies of the Goidels, landed in north Kerry and pushed east to meet them around Cashel in Tipperary and they formed a new kingdom there.
- The **Venelli** forefathers of Bressal Bélach pushed south through Offaly and Laois and took over the northern territories of the **Osraighe** and created the **Uí Failghe**.
- The **Loígis** (another **Ciannachta Clan**) also gained former **Osraighe** territory. Their arrival from Ulster is also probably related to the Goidelic invasion. Similar to the **Connachta Uí Maine** moving to Galway as part of the **Goidel-Connachta** deal, **The Loígis** moving to Laois was part of the **Goidel-Ciannachta** deal. Both of these migrations also freed up land for the **Three Collas** to take over territory in Ulster.
- **Dál gCais** territories were reduced and they became vassals to the **Eóganacht Chaisil** in Munster and to the new kingdom of **Mide** in North Leinster.
- The **Osraighe** ceded a swath of southern territory to the displaced and incoming Déisi sometime around **450AD**, before the **Corcu Loígde** of south Munster overthrew the **Dál Birn** and took control of southern **Osraighe**.
- The **Uí Cheinnselaig Clan** was taken over by the Goidels as part of this conquest. This may have been a hostile takeover of the **Uí Cheinnselaig** by the **Goidel**. However the **Uí Cheinnselaig Y-DNA** is part **R1b-DF27** and if they were already part Venelli or Morini from the previous Leginian invasion, it might explain why they joined the **Goidels** against the other Laigin.

Sources

Sources

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- Surname DNA Journal - Irish Mapping DNA Project – by Dr. Brad Larkin March 2020 from <https://www.surnamedna.com/?p=2329>
- On FamilyTreeDNA there is a group called 'Clan Colla 425 null' dedicated to researching the origins and spread of Clan Colla DNA, in addition one of its administrators, Peter Biggins, has a web-site called <http://www.peterspioneers.com>. This was particularly useful.
- The Fitzpatrick FamilyTreeDNA Group Project <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/fitzpatrick/about>
- FamilyTreeDNA Group Projects and their public Y-DNA charts in general
- Haplogroup Block information from www.ytree.net
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- www.eupedia.com Haplogroup Information.
- *Ptolemy's map of Ireland: a modern decoding* - By Robert Darcy & William Flynn; Department of Political Science, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, USA (2008)
- *Ptolemy's Tribes of Ireland (revised)* by Martin Counihan (2019)

In Addition:

- On-line published DNA maps by LivingDNA and Irish Origenes
- The ever-useful Wikipedia
- The page on T.F. O'Rahilly's historical model of Irish Pre-History is a condensed version from a now deleted Wikipedia summary of his historical model.