

The Robinsons and Campbells of Skye

A Short Report

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Tyrone Bowes'.

Dr Tyrone Bowes
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Determining when a shared paternal ancestor once lived

Previous reports at Scottish Origenes indicated that Dean and Warren Robinson, together with Glenlyon Campbell have a shared paternal origin within the Isle of Skye, and that their earlier shared paternal ancestry leads further back in time to the area surrounding the southern shores of Loch Lomond in West Central Scotland an estimated 1,000 years ago. Dissecting out the precise relationship between the Robinsons and Campbells of Skye involves an analysis of both their Y-DNA111 (STR) and BigY (SNP) results. While the STRs allow one to estimate an approximate time to a shared paternal ancestor (see **Figure 1**), to date, there is no reliable method that can accurately date each individual SNP mutation detected in the BigY results. However, the SNPs analysed in the BigY results do provide a more accurate picture of their developmental paternal ancestral tree (although direct comparisons are hampered by the fact that not everyone participates in *both* STR and BigY testing).

An examination of Warren's and Dean's STR matches reveals that although they share a common founding Robinson ancestor, there is considerable variability in the number of markers that both individuals share with Glenlyon Campbell (Warren share's 108/111, while Dean shares 104/111). These differences merely emphasize the variability among STR genetic markers which are far more susceptible to mutation compared to SNPs. The Y-DNA111 results indicates that while Dean and Warren's shared Robinson ancestor lived an estimated 300 years ago, their shared paternal ancestor with Glenlyon Campbell lived at some point between 225 and 525 years ago, see **Figure 1**. Since Glenlyon Campbell is a close genetic match to others named Campbell in the Y-DNA STR results (who tested independently) it indicates that Dean and Warren's ancestor was almost certainly named 'Campbell' prior to acquiring the Robinson surname, see **Figure 2**. The recent shared paternal ancestry between the Robinsons and Campbells of Skye is confirmed by the BigY results where all 3 appear as a perfect match to one other, see **Figure 3**. An examination of Glenlyon Campbell's BigY matches also reveals multiple matching 'MacKays' which is a strong indication that both the Campbells and Robinsons ultimately emerged from a member of Clan MacKay who lived on the Isle of Skye, see **Figure 3**.

The Y-DNA results indicate that the common paternal ancestor of the Robinsons and Campbells was living on the southern shores of Loch Lomond until approximately 750 years ago at which point their paternal ancestor ventured to the Isle of Skye and acquired the MacKay surname. Approximately 300 years ago their MacKay ancestor acquired the Campbell surname, and within a generation or two the Robertson surname was acquired by Warren and Deans paternal ancestor, which over time and distance has morphed into the '*Robinson*' form of the surname.

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Y-DNA111		
Genetic distance	Estimated time to a shared paternal ancestor / years	AD
0	0	-
1	75	1950-2015
2	150	1865-1950
3	225	1790-1865
4	300	1715-1790
5	375	1640-1715
6	450	1565-1640
7	525	1490-1565
8	600	1415-1490
9	675	1340-1415
10	750	1265-1340
11	825	1190-1265
Y-DNA67		
Genetic distance	Estimated time to a shared paternal ancestor/years	AD
0	0-100	1900-
1	100-200	1800-
2	200-300	1700-
3	300-400	1600-
4	400-500	1500-
5	500-600	1400-
6	600-700	1300-
7	700-800	1200-
Y-DNA37		
Genetic distance	Estimated time to a shared paternal ancestor/years	AD
0	0-200	1800-
1	200-400	1600-
2	400-600	1400-
3	600-800	1200-
4	800-1000	1000-
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Figure 1: Estimated time to a shared paternal ancestor based on Y-DNA STR results. This timeframe is based on the results of a ‘closet-MacGregor;’ someone with the surname ‘Valentine’ but whose Y-DNA results revealed that his ancestor was originally called MacGregor. Mr Valentine’s ancestors can be traced back to Montrose in Northeast Scotland in the early 1700’s while his DNA reveals that he is a close genetic match to the current McGregor Chief (hence his ancestor was related to the Chiefly line of the MacGregors). Given his detailed family history, his ancestor had to have changed his surname to Valentine soon after the MacGregors were outlawed in 1604AD and hence using that time point and the genetic distance between him and the current Chief of the MacGregors one can estimate a time to a shared paternal ancestor based on the number of shared markers at the 111, 67 and 37 marker levels. Using this table it is possible to estimate when the shared paternal ancestor among the Robinsons, Campbells and MacKays of Skye once lived.

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111 Marker Matches				
Genetic Distance	Name	Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP
3	Warren Robinson	James Robinson, b. 1760, d. 1835	R-Z16328	Z16328
4	Todd Franklin Campbell	John Campbell (est 1836) of Arrochar, Scotland	R-L1065	L1065
4	Kleber Alexander Campbell	Alexander Campbell (1816) of New York and Vermont,	R-M269	
5	Jacob A McCoy	Richard McCoy, B. 1752 Montgomery County VA	R-BY11787	BY11787
5	Greg Roberts	Un-identified McCoy, 1800s Pike County, KY	R-BY155	BY155
5	Rex Calvin McCoy	Crinian, Mormaer of Atholl b. 975 d. 1045	R-A35	A35
5	John Roberts McCoy	Un-identified McCoy, 1800s Pike County, KY	R-BY155	BY155
6	Mr. Matt William Gillis	Roderick Gillis b.1826 d.1906 Nova Scotia	R-BY154	BY154
6	Ronald E Bissett	Jacob Bissett b. 1786, Maryland USA L1065+	R-Z16328	Z16328
6	Mr. McCoy		R-M269	
7	Dean Robinson	James Robinson, b. 1760, d. 1835	R-Z16328	Z16328
7	Mr. Joe McCoy	Richard McCoy, B. 1752 Montgomery County VA	R-BY11787	BY11787
8	Dr. James E. Mark	Gilbert Mark, 1830-1900	R-M269	
8	Mrs. Kathy McCann Keyser	Laurence McCann, 1730-1819	R-M269	
8	Mr. Peter Troy MacDonald	Martin MacDonald, 1755 Inverness Shire (S756+)	R-BY154	BY154
9	Garry F MacDonell	John MacDonell B.1760 Fort Augustus	R-BY154	BY154
9	Mr. William Frank Stewart	John Fitz Stewart b ca 1787 New Brunswick, Canada	R-FGC10125	FGC10125
9	Peter-John Dougall	Robert Dougall, b. 1821 and d. 1858	R-L1065	L1065
9	Mr. Alex Pilkington (Y111 and Big Y)	Thomas Pilkington, b 1801, Bermondsey, Surrey, Eng	R-FGC23770	FGC23770
9	Mr. Lachlan Neil Macdonald Esq	Lachlan Macdonald, b1821 Bracadale Isle of Skye	R-M269	
9	Mr. Paul Richard MacDonald	John MacDonald b1803	R-BY154	BY154
9	Mr. William Wade Ferguson	Francis Marian Ferguson, 1831 - 1862	R-M269	
9	Scott Robert McDonald		R-M269	
9	George Lauder McAusland	Robert McAusland b.1750	R-A9017	A9017
10	Robert Barrer	John Isaiah Barrer, b. 1846 and d. 1886	R-M269	
10	Mr. Robert Earl Crawford	Parlane MacFarlane, born circa 1646	R-M269	
10	Michael D. McKinley	William McKinley b. 1785	R-L1065	L1065
10	Mr. Roy Steven McPherson	Mr. James McPherson, b. 1795 and d. 1875	R-M269	
10	Mr. Thom Arthur Corner	Mr. Francis Corner, b. 1778	R-M269	
10	Mr. McPherson	Hugh McPherson C1730 Craignish, Argyll, Scotland	R-S764	S764

Figure 2: Glenlyon Campbell's closest Y-DNA111 matches. Warren Robinson appears as the test subject's closest genetic relative, while Campbells (red arrows) and MacKays (blue arrows) appear as more distant genetic relatives. These Y-DNA STR matches indicate that the Robinson surname was acquired by a Campbell, and that the Campbells of Skye emerged from Clan MacKay.

Glenlyon Campbell Closest BigY Matches				
Match Name	Shared Novel Variants	Known SNP Difference	Non-Matching Known SNPs	Matching SNPs
Dean Robinson	15	0		26690
Warren Robinson	15	0		26396
Donald McWhannell	12	1	Y783.2	26673
Dr. Frank Crawford Stewart III	12	1	CTS3850	26846
Frank Lloyd Pierce	12	1	CTS3850	26366
Jacob A McCoy	12	1	CTS3850	26402
James Folmar Reddoch III	12	1	CTS3850	26607
James P. Edmiston	12	1	CTS3850	26021
Mr. Charles Manning Colburn	12	1	Y783.2	26786
Mr. Joe McCoy	12	1	CTS3850	26830
Mr. Matt William Gillis	12	1	CTS3850	26540
Greg Roberts	0	1	CTS3850	25932
John Roberts McCoy	0	1	CTS3850	26196
Joseph Ollin Kinnison	0	1	Y783.2	26962
Mark E. MacDonald	0	1	CTS3850	25534
Mr. Peter Troy MacDonald	0	1	CTS3850	25630
Mrs. Charman Urquhart Ibarra	0	1	CTS3850	26853
Roger Stewart	0	1	CTS3850	25314
Alexander F. MacPherson	12	2	CTS3850 Y783.2	26602
Andrew Griffiths	12	2	CTS3850 Y783.2	26355
Andy Buchanan	12	2	CTS3850 Y783.2	26762
Arch Cox McKay II	12	2	CTS3850 PF1557	26659
B. Parker Livingston	12	2	CTS3850 Y783.2	26724

Figure 3: Glenlyon Campbell's closest BigY genetic matches. BigY DNA testing provides an accurate picture of the phylogenetic relationship between those testing. The BigY results indicate that the Robinson surname was acquired by a Campbell and that both Campbells and Robinsons of Skye emerged from Clan MacKay (highlighted in green). Not everyone who tests to the Y-DNA111 marker level participates in BigY testing, hence the lack of Campbells in the test subject's BigY matches may simply be due to the fact that they have not yet participated in BigY testing.