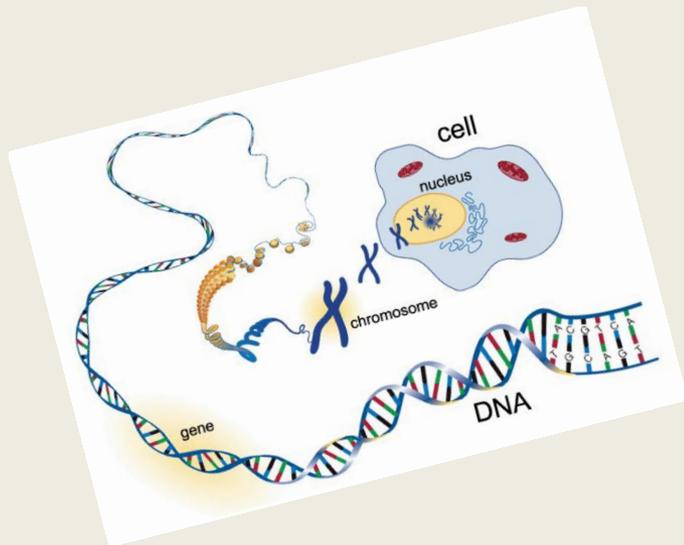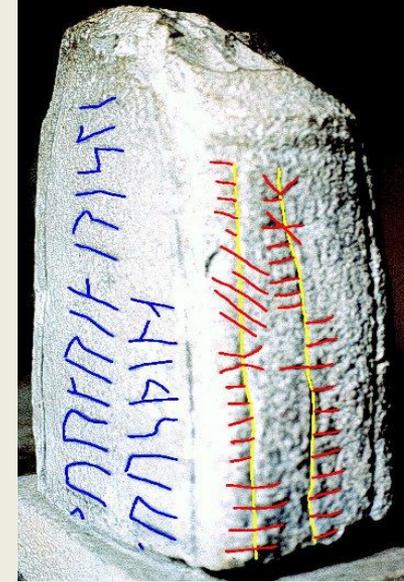# Surname formation in Ireland; discussion, debates and DNA

Catherine Swift

Mary Immaculate College

Limerick
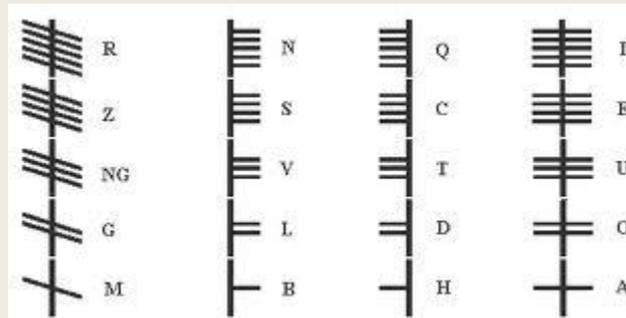
Clan Names of Ireland

Ireland was the first country in Europe to adopt hereditary surnames. The earliest recorded elsewhere in Europe are assigned to the eleventh century.

"As in many European societies, Y chromosomes and Irish surnames share (in the main) patrilineal [father to son] transmission. **These names are amongst the oldest cultural lineage markers in the world** and emerged from an earlier tribal nomenclature…."

L. Moore et al., "A Y-chromosome signature of hegemony" American Journal of Human Genetics (2006)

"Oldest cultural lineage markers"

- Ogam stone inscriptions +300; dating range *c.* AD 400-650

- 50% inscriptions: "X son of Y"

- Small % of MOCCU inscriptions "X son of Y of community (MOCCU) of W"

Ballylanders: Little Baldy son of Cow-Lord

Case study of Dingle peninsula, Co. Kerry

- MOCCU DOVINIAS ogam stones in Dingle & Iveragh

- Modern name of Dingle peninsula = Corcu **Duibne**.

- Leaders of territory = Ua Failbi (descendants of Failbe); Cronan son of Failbe died in AD 1027.

- *Claind Fland as mó gabas ríge and .i. Fálbe ⁊ Congal* – "the family of Fland which is the greatest who took kingship there; that is Failbe and Congal.

Names: Falvey

- Primary Valuation Property Survey in 1847-64:

Clare	4	Cork	50
Cork city	8	Kerry	87
Limerick	3	Waterford	1

Mathesons's 1890 – Special Report on Births in Ireland:

Leinster	1
Munster	16
Connacht	0
Ulster	0

Origin of Falveys in 11ᵗʰ C

Patrick Woulfe, *Irish names and surnames* (1923):

0 Falvie, 0 Falvy, 0 Fallie, O'Falvey, Falvey, Fealy, Fealey ; ' des. of Failbhe' (lively);
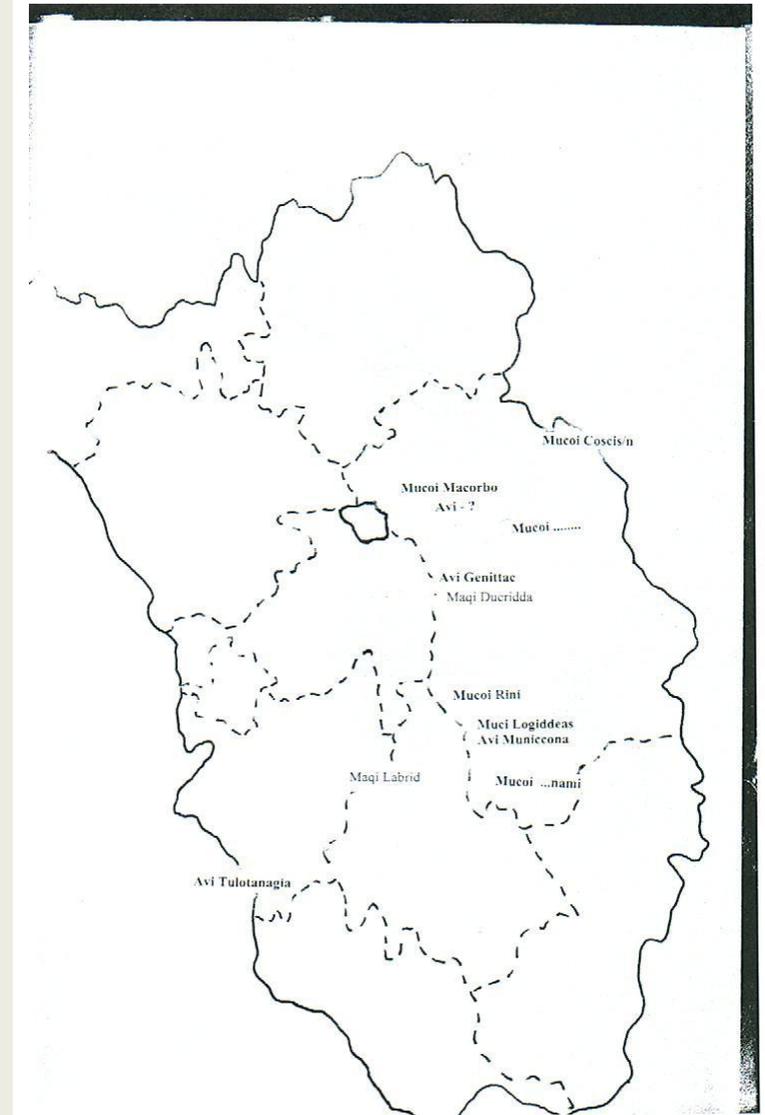
- the name of an ancient family in Kerry, who before the Anglo-Norman invasion were lords of Corca Dhuibhne, the present barony of Corcaguiny; now rather rare; in parts of North Kerry sometimes

     pronounced Ó Fáile, angicised as Fealy.

- Edward MacLysaght, *More Irish Families*, Dublin (1982):

FALVEY: numerous: Kerry-Cork etc. Ir. *Ó Fáilbhe (fáilbheach,* lively). Pre-Invasion chiefs of Corca Dhuibhne (Dingle Peninsula). They retained a leading status until fairly recent times. The name has become Fealy in some parts of Kerry

Case study of Ogenty, Co. Kilkenny

- Dunbell Big: NAVALLO AVVI GENITTAC

- Genitach said to be 3 generations descended from Oengus Osrithe (eponym of Ossory)

- Tír húa nGeintich in 12th C > cantred of Ogenty occupied by Síl Daimíni, Uí Chuirre & Uí Gobbáin

- "Genitach" = "being born" – not a normal name in Old Irish – genealogists invention. No modern surname is said to derive from this name.
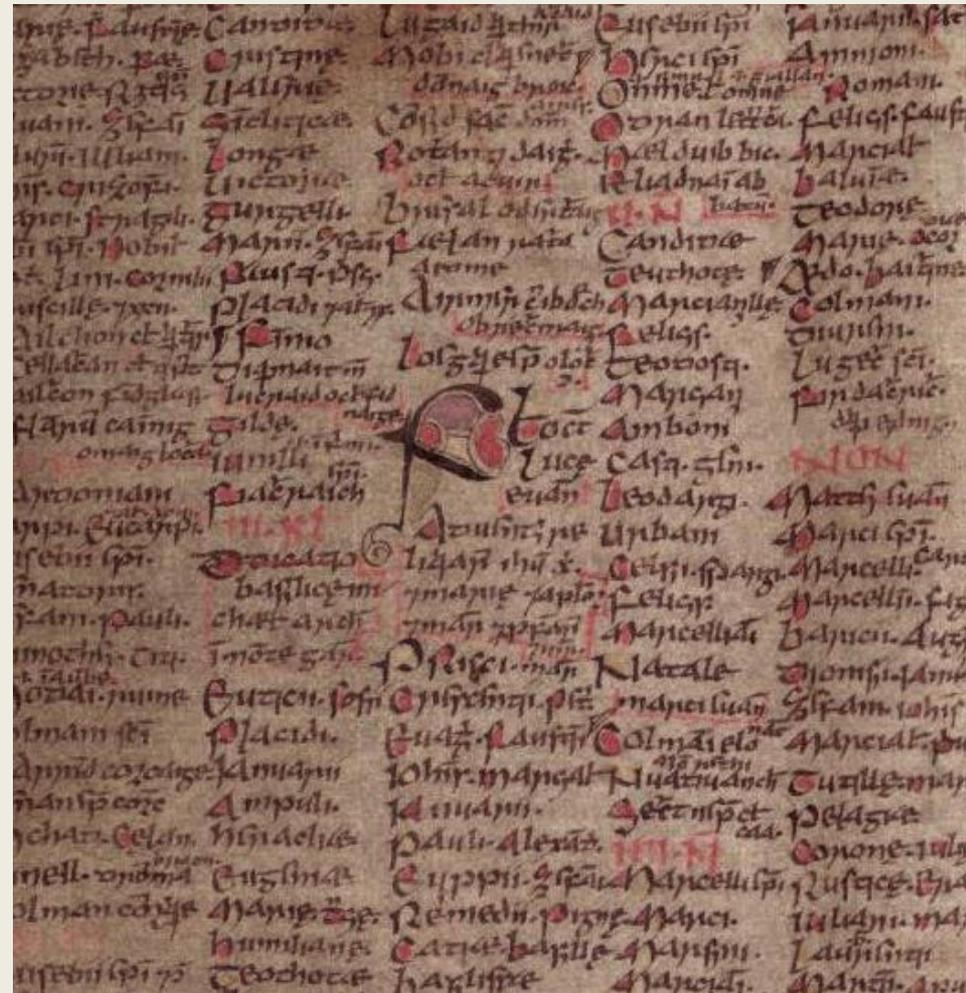
Genealogies in twelfth-century Ireland written in time of change

Brian Boru's offspring

Brian – who is called Brian Bóraimhe, king of Ireland – son of Ceinnédaigh had six excellent sons; three of them left children i.e. Tadhg, Donnchadh (from whom are Uí Dhonnchadha who at this time are called Clann Bhriain of Atharllach) and Domhnall

Three sons did not leave children i.e. Murchadh, Conchobor and Flann i.e. the sons of the daughter of Eidheann son of Cléireach

*Ó h-Eidhin =*grandson of Eidheann = Hynes

1890 – Register of Births

DISTRIBUTION Leinster 20 **Munster** 20 **Connacht** 37 **Ulster** 6

MOST COMMON IN COUNTIES Clare Mayo Galway Dublin

Property Valuation 1847-64

Galway 289 houses

Clare 125 houses

BUT….. All Hynes not necessiarly south Galway bay….

- **SURNAME TOTAL**
- **Hindes** 9
- **Hinds** 68
- **Hines** 42
- **Hyndes** 3
- **Hynds** 26
- **Hynes** 985

. E.g. **Hines** rare: but found in Belfast, Dublin – maybe English, "servant"; also possibly a variant of Hynes. **Hynds** fairly numerous in Ulster. English, hind = servant.

Genealogies continue to be written but for a purpose

- E.g. to claim land (especially in time of Plantations)

- To claim aristocratic ancestry (vital if you wanted to work in foreign armies in 17th and 18th C)

- To claim "Irishness" - very common in late 19th and 20th C.

- Genealogies are separate from surnames though they can give information about origin of surnames. One must always remember, however, that they are propaganda documents

An Leabhar Muimhneach – The Book of Munster: 18th C manuscripts in Royal Irish Academy

- The seed of Flannchad (Síol bhFlannchadha) were judges of the Ó Briain (O'Briens) and their lands were the Grianán of the Judges in the Dál Cais and in the lands of the foreigners. There was a crowd (*drong*) of the Síol bhFlannchadha in the barony of Fear Muighe (Fermoy) in County Cork from the time that a woman of the Uí Bhriain married one of the Roches

- Woulfe 1923: *O'Flannchadha = Flanahee,* Flanahy; ' descendant of Flannchad (red-warrior); a rare Thomond surname.

"Irish genealogies were far from being the dispassionate observations of scholars. Detailed analysis shows that, even when made about the remote past, genealogical statements might have contemporary use in justifying the claims and flattering the pretensions of ruling dynasties. They might cast a cloak of legitimacy over an embarrassingly recent climb to power or assert the high rank of dynasties which had been the victims o more successful neighbours. Genealogies were thus sometimes associated with the origin legends which explained how peoples had come into existence, how dynasties had lost or gained dominant positions and even how they came to have relationships of alliance or enmity with other peoples or kindreds."

T. Charles-Edwards, *Welsh and Irish kinship* (Oxford 1993), 112

History of English surnames

- Before Norman conquest in 1066 nobody possessed a surname and people were called by first name in Old English or Norse with occasional nicknames.e.g. Eirik Bloodaxe, Ethelred the Unready

- Spur to surnames in England seems to be desire of leading barons to identify their families with estates back in Normandy .e.g point of origin.

- Most knights in south of England possessed surnames by about 1200 but still not all knights in north by 1300.

- Ordinary people are rather slower but, starting with richer merchants, fashion starts to spread from *c.*1250 and becomes especially productive *c.* 1350. Majority of population seems to have acquired surname by *c.* 1400

Nature of English surnames

- Surnames which originate in personal names, especially of dad: e.g. Robertson, Dawson

- Particularly common are surnames which indicate where someone originates

- Occupational surnames e.g. Smith, Carver, Teyllar, Clockmaker etc. Some of these are now obscure: Clouter = leather-worker; Quelewright = wheel-maker; Swynlibber = a man who castrates pigs.

Map of
distribution
of name
GOLIGHTLY –
a messenger?
In 1881

NB! Geographical pattern of
surnames in England severely
disrupted by Black Death and
by Industrial Revolution

Medieval population of Limerick

- Brian Hodkinson – Assistant Curator, Limerick City Museum has produced "Who was who in Medieval Limerick" - http://www.limerickcity.ie/media/Who%20was%20who%20in%20medieval%20Limerick.pdf; **Cut off date = 1541**

- **List of Limerick people who came to attention of authorities in Anglo-Norman Ireland**

A Annates, Limerick Diocese. Arch. Hib. Vol X.+

- AAR Archbishop Alen's Register+
- AFM Annals of the Four Masters+
- AH Analecta Hibernica
- AM Arthur Manuscript (McLysaght & Ainsworth)+§
- AMs Arthur Manuscript itself, by both page numbering systems
- AOB Alph O'Brien
- BBL Black Book of Limerick+
- CCMH Calendar Carew Manuscripts Howth
- CCR Calendar of Close Rolls
- CChR Calendar of Charter Rolls
- CDI Calendar of Documents Ireland+
- CICL* Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters (http://www.irishchancery.net)+
- CIPM Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem
- CJR Calendar of Justiciary Rolls +
- CLR Calendar of Liberate Rolls+
- COD Calendar of Ormond Deeds+(by document number)
- CPCR Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls; Henry 8
- CPR Calendars of Papal Registers#+
- CS Crown Surveys (MacNiocaill)+
- CSMA Chartularies of St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin (Gilbert)
- DBKC Documents on the Affairs of Ireland before King's Council (Sayles)+
- EIMP Extents of Irish Monastic Possessions+
- Expug Expugnatio Hibernica (Scott)

- FR Fine Rolls
- GR Gormanston Register+
- IEMI Inquisitions and Extents of Medieval Ireland (Dryburgh & Smith 2007)+
- IEP Irish Exchequer Payments+
- NA National Archives Ireland+
- NAK National Archives UK (Kew)+
- NLI National Library of Ireland (Limerick Papers)+
- PC Parliaments and Councils (Richardson & Sayles)
- PH Pontificia Hibernica+
- PR Calendars of Patent Rolls
- P2P Petitions to Pope (Bliss)
- RAST Register of the Abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin (Gilbert)+
- RBK Red Book of Kildare+
- RK Registrum de Kilmainham+
- RBO Red Book of Ormond+
- RDKRI Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Record Office Ireland
- (+Pipe Rolls specially consulted; remainder city refs. only at present)
- RHSJB Register of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, Dublin+
- SA Sexten Annals (pagination of museum copy)
- W1 Westropp's Churches (by church number)+
- W2 Westropp's Castles.+
- Wills Westropp, St Mary's

Examples of names from Who's Who of Medieval Limerick

- **Carpenter, Gerald le**. 1313, feloniously killed (CJR3, p. 307).
- **Carpenter, Paddy le**. 1321, juror for extent of Mahoonagh (IEMI, No. 196).
- **Carpenter, Radulph**. 1230-40, holds tenament in L. (BBL p.36).
- **Carpentar, William**. 1242, juror for inquisition of Castleconnell, manor of de Burgh
- (Dryburgh p. 56).
- **Carpenter, William le**. 1307, pledge, in mercy (CJR2, p. 451).

Limerick names in MAC (son of)

- <u>Macadam</u> McBren McBrene McBrien McBryen MacCarthy Maccarayd Macharthan MacKery Macconmara Mcnamara Macnamara Mac Nemara Maccrauan MacGilla Phadraig Mac Gilla Vannach MacGearailt Machun Maclomyn Maclanchie MacKennery Macmachuna McMayhowne McMahon Mac Murchadha McMorogh Mac Craith <u>McRichard</u> McTayg McTeige

Limerick names in FITZ (= "son of" in Norman French)

- 18 Fitz-Adam
- 3 Fitz-Alexander
- 2 Fitz-Alan
- 2 Fitz Audoen
- 10 Fitz David
- 3 Fitzgeoffrey
- 7 **Fitzgerald**
- 3 **Fitzgibbon**
- 9 Fitz Gilbert
- 2 Fitz Hector
- **12 Fitz Henry**
- 12 Fitz Hugh
- 41 Fitz John
- 2 Fitz Jordan
- 2 Fitz Laurence

- 6 Fitz Matthew
- 23 Fitz Maurice + 2 Fitz Moris
- 5 Fitz Milo
- 6 Fitz Nicholas
- 4 Fitz Pagan
- 2 Fitz Pay
- 10 Fitz Peter
- 12 Fitz Philip
- 2 Fitz Poinz + 1 Fitz Poyns
- 3 Fitz Poncius
- 3 Fitz Radulph
- 15 Fitz Ralph
- 2 Fitz Raymond
- 4 Fitz Reginald

- 21 Fitz Richard
- 18 Fitz Robert
- 6 Fitz Roger
- 3 Fitz Rys
- **8 Fitz Simon**
- 7 Fitz Stephen
- 2 Fitz Tankard
- 17 Fitz Thomas
- 3 Fitz Walran
- 12 Fitz Walter
- 23 **Fitz William**

Limerick surnames derived from personal names

- 18 Fitz Adam, 2 McAdam, 9 Adam
- 4 Andrews
- 34 Arthurs
- 3 Arnold, 2 Arnolds
- 2 Daniel
- 3 Eustace
- 1 Gilberd, 1 Gilbard
- 6 Gos, Gose
- 7 Hamound
- 22 Harold
- 7 Hereward = Hereford? + 2 Herward
- 5 Howell (Hywel)
- 4 Huberd + 2 Hubert

Limerick surnames derived from origin

- 5 Bonville, 1 Bonfield – de Bonneville
- 6 Angl , 6 de anglia, 1 – de anguelo see townaland of Cloienglesse near Askeaton – also 1 Angell in Limerick; 2 Angland;Langley? 3 England, 3 English
- Bristol
- De Cardiff
- Connachtach
- Cornewaleis (Cornwall)
- Desmond
- Emly
- Fleming
- 5 Franceis (in various spellings)
- 2 Galle and 1 Gale
- Galway

- Rathgoul
- Slane
- Trim
- Tintagel
- Winchester
- Windsor
- 3 Waleis + 17 Waleys +2 Walensis (some with Welsh names) + 3 Walleys + 6 Welshman + 1 Welsh 2 Wals + 6 Walsh
- Breathnach, 5 Bret

Limerick surnames derived from appearance

- 16 Albus, 2 Wyte   White = 46 in Limerick phonebook
- 13 Blake/Black 1 Dub, 5 Duff
- 8 Blond, 23 Blound, 25 Blund – 3 Fyn
- 28 Brown + 19 Brun + 3 Bron – also 3 Donn, 2 Dun

- Pettit, Beg
- 5 Big + 3 Byg/bygge
- 2 Child, 3 Childe, 18 l'Enfant

Limerick surnames derived from profession

- Archer
- Butler
- Carpenter
- Carter
- Chaplain
- Chapman
- Clerk/Clarke
- 3 Coco (1 de Cocis) - 1 Cockeye + 3 Cook
- Dene /Dean
- 2 Fowler, 1 le Foulere, 1 the Fouler
- Glover
- Harper

- Mareschal Marshall
- Marchand Mercer Merchant
- Miller
- Myneter Miniter
- Porter
- Serjaunt Sargent
- Sexton
- Smith
- Spicer
- Stabeler
- Taverner
- Venur

Surnames derived from animals

- 3 Bull
- 4 Calf
- 2 Dobyn
- 11 Fox
- 5 Hert – Hart?

Surnames derived from rooms/buildings

- 2 de Camera/Chambers ?
- 15 de Capella + 8 Chapel (various spellings)

Chappell = 1

2 cashel/Cassel/1 Castel

7 Cathyr (cathir etc)

2 how/Howe

Complications: Hussy

10 English (Norman) habitation name from *Houssaye* in Seine/Maritime so called from a collective noun from OF *Hous* holly. 2. English: nickname for a woman who was mistress of her own household from ME *húswif* ..3. OF *heusé* = booted, either because they were of unsual design or because he was considered fortunate to have them at all at a time when most of the peasantry had to be content with leggings or sandals. 4. Irish. Anglicised form of Gael *O hEodhusa* 'descendant of Eodhus' a personal name given in bardic families.

The Oxford names companion (2002)

Irish genealogical sources

- *Sloinnte na n h-Eireann:* **Hussey** numerous: all areas, especially Kerry and Galway. Ir. *Ó h-Eodhasa,* a bardic family of Fermanagh, it has been changed to Oswald in some cases. There were also Norman De Hoseys, who settled in Meath and Kerry. Ir. *Husae.*

- Woulfe 1923: the name of a family of Cinel Eoghain, in Ulster, who were chiefs

of Cinel Tighearnaigh, but afterwards migrated to Fermanagh, where they became bards to the Maguires, The family produced several distinguished literary men, among them Eochaidh 0 hEodhasa and Bonaventure 0 hEodhasa who flourished at the beginning of the I7th century. The name is now very rare in Ulster, having, according to O'Donovan, been changed to Oswell, which apparently has been more recently

further changed to Oswald. Before the end of the 16th century, it had spread to Leinster and Munster, but its angl. forms in these provinces cannot now be

distinguished from the Anglo-Irish surname, Hussey

Limerick names from Who's who

- **Husse, Adam**. Undated, burgess of Kilmallock (BBL p. 76).
- **Husse, Henry**. Undated, tenant in Kilmallock (BBL, p. 81).
- **Husse, John**. Undated; rental of St Mary's house (SA,120).
- **Husse, Walter**. Undated, burgess of Kilmallock (BBL p. 76, 81).
- **Husser, Michael**. 1338, tenant in inquisition into Caherconlish (IEMI, no. 275).
- **Hussh, Gerald**. 1381, made assessor in Kilmallock and Any for funding of archers
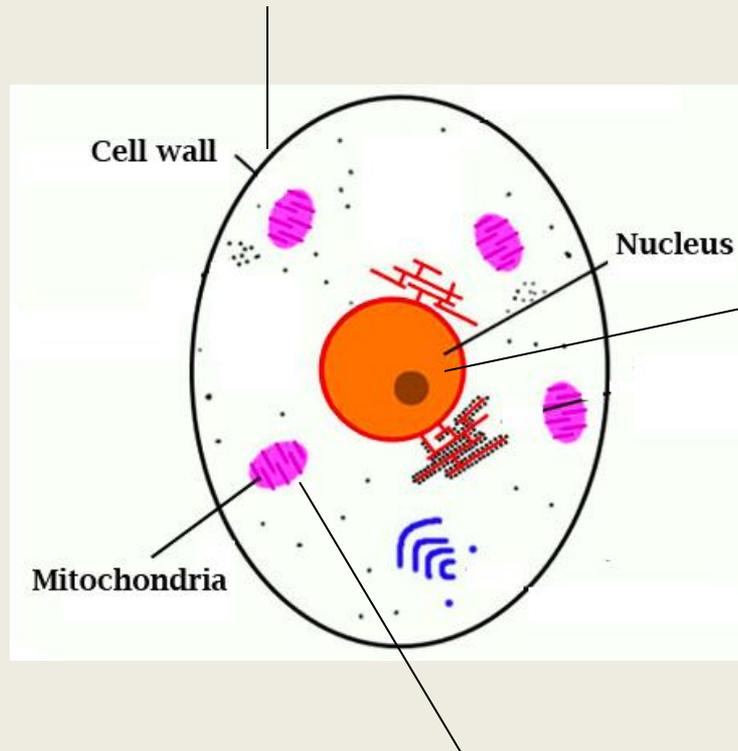- (CICL, 167)
- **Hussh, John.** 1311, juror (CJR3, p. 215).

Origins of project: Genes of Gallgoídil: Cross-disciplinary Studies of Migration of Irish, Hiberno-Norse and other Gaelic-speaking populations in the Viking Age IRCHSS/AHRC 2009-2010

- Joint research programme, principle investigators: Dr Christina Lee University of Nottingham & Dr Catherine Swift ; Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. Now joined by Dr Clare Downham, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool
- Aimed to connect scientists with people in the arts (linguists, art historians, archaeologists, place names people) for cross-disciplinary research
- Intends to create new ways to research Viking movements and migration; thinking outside the box

- Currently funded by CAMPS/IRCHSS New Ideas/Mary Immaculate College to develop

Linn na nGéinte Éireannacha: Genes of Celts, Vikings and Normans
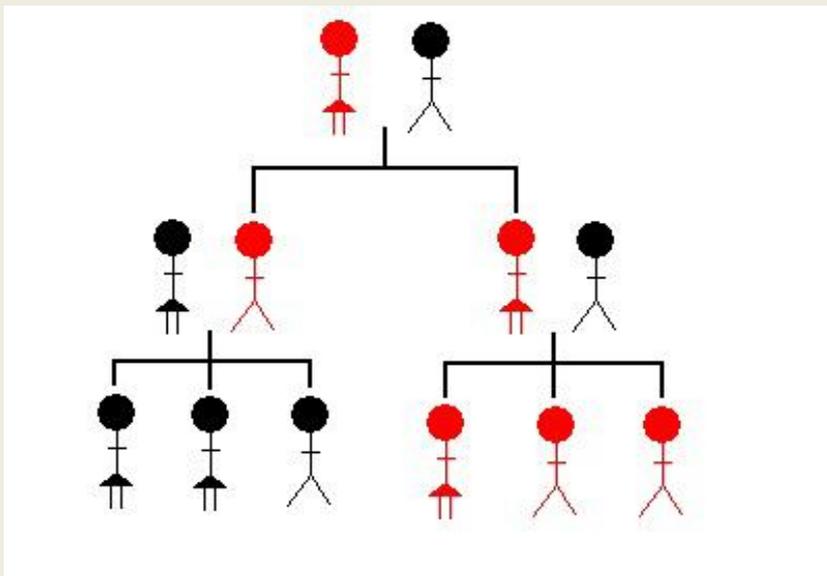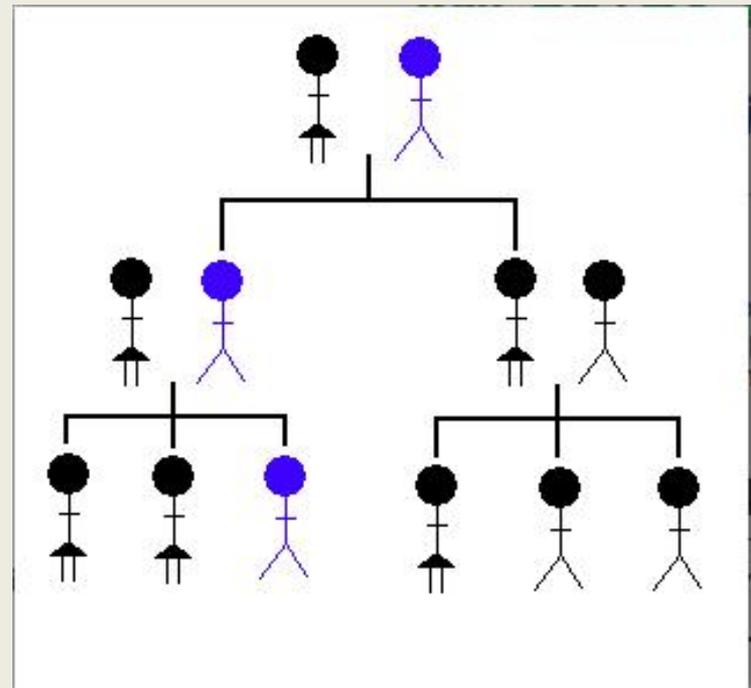
All cells share some of the same basic structures...

▪ All cells have a cell wall. This holds them together and defines their shape.

Cell wall

Nucleus

Mitochondria

▪ All true cells have a nucleus, that holds the main information.

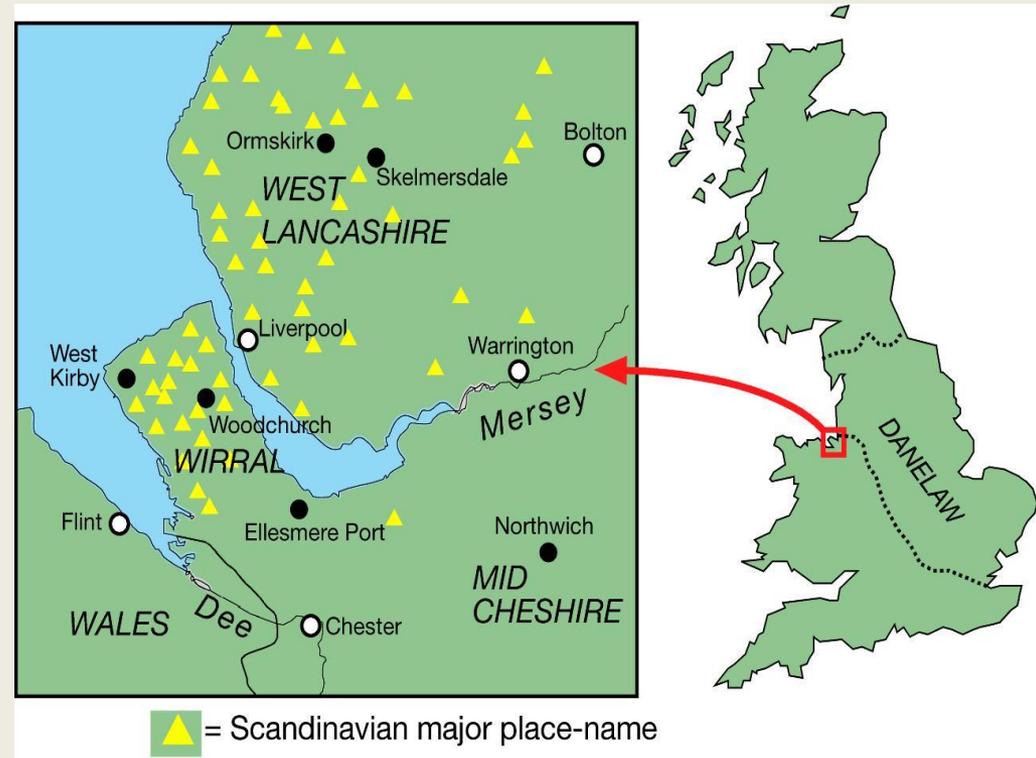▪ Most cells have mitochondria, that provide energy.

In the case of the Y chromosomes, these are inherited directly from your Dad. They very rarely mutate so, like surnames themselves they can tell us something about the ultimate origin of a family
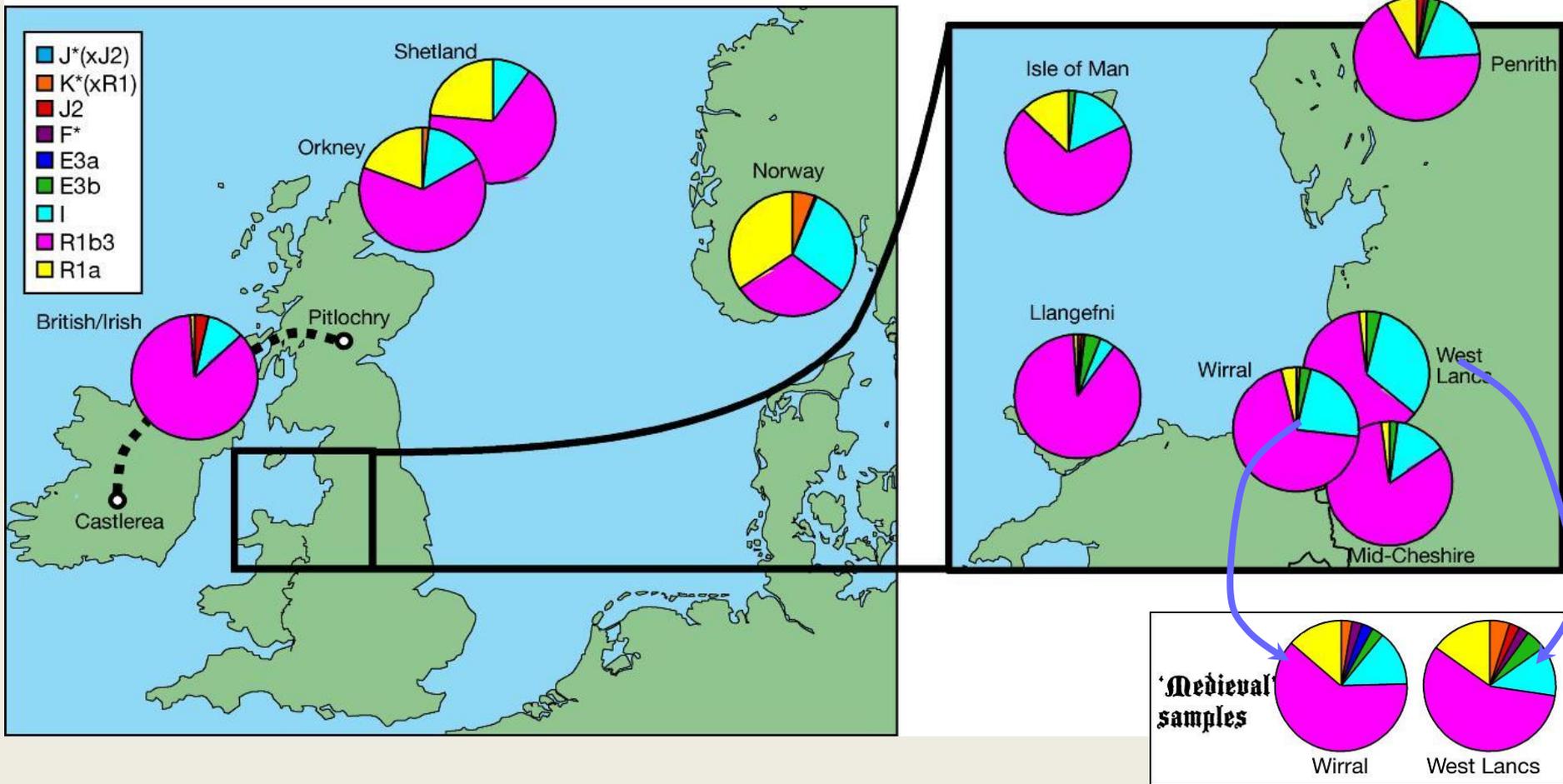

Mitochondria is transmitted through females so by studying material in the mitochondria, we can figure out patterns of inheritance passed through the mothers.

Seeking Vikings in the Wirral and West Lancashire using surnames

◆ **Vikings arrived in 902 AD; subsequent massive population growth and immigration**

◆ Compare two samples for Wirral and W. Lancs:

◆ 1) 'Modern' - two generations of residence

◆ 2) 'Medieval' - as above, plus surnames present in old local surname lists pre-1572

= Scandinavian major place-name

Bowden *et al.* **(2008)** *Mol. Biol. Evol.* **25, 301-9**

Modern surnames produce one set of haplotypes showing relatively little of yellow type (R1a)

But samples taken from medieval surnames show considerably more R1a (yellow) haplotype

- Using Wirral study as a guide, the suggestion is that if we test these names we may end up with a more substantial trace of Viking DNA in the medieval population of Limerick as a whole.

- We should also end up with a more precise data set for identifying the specific haplogroups associated with **medievally-attested** Irish names than was available for use in comparisons in a comparative study done of Viking names in Ireland in 2006. (McEvoy *et al. – European Journal of Human Genetics*)

- BUT in addition, some of these surnames, if studied in greater depth in terms of the chronology and phonology of their various attestations (both Irish and English), **may** reveal more specifically an origin in Old Norse, Middle English or Norman French.

- It should, therefore, be possible to extend the admixture analysis of the geneticists to a consideration of possible homelands in England and/or Normandy as well.

Ambitions of *Linn na nGéinte Éireannacha*

Genes of Gallgoídil:

Cross-disciplinary Studies of Migration of Irish, Hiberno-Norse and other Gaelic-speaking populations in the Viking Age
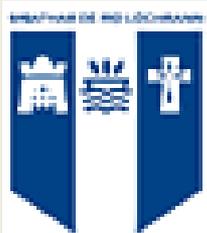
CAMPS RESEARCH LABS

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Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences