

THE CORRIGAN CONNECTION

By Frances James, great granddaughter of John Carrucan and Mary Jane Bregazzi Manley, great great granddaughter of Peter Carrucan and Hannah Woods.

Edward MacLysaght in "The surnames of Ireland" says that Carrocan is a variant of the name Corrigan found in Co Clare. (By the way, he had a farm at Raheen in Co Clare.) With the help of genetic yDNA and Surname Projects, I wondered if we could find the connection. Frank Carrucan offered to have his yDNA tested as part of the Corrigan and variant Surname Project, hosted at FamilyTreeDNA in Houston, Texas, USA.

We compare results of a 37 or more "marker" test to other men within a surname group to see how close they match. A group of men descended from a common ancestor born c 1750 should have nearly identical marker results. (36/37 is not unusual). There may be the odd variance on one or two markers, as mutations have to occur at some stage. The closer the match the more closely related you are. Combined with traditional genealogy we hope to make connections. (FTDNA have nearly 6000 Surname and Regional projects.)

We have 28 Corrigan/Carrigan/Carrucan families in the project. The Corrigans are said to be from the same stock as the McGuires. Of the men in the group we can place them into at least 5 distinct groups, showing that not all Corrigans have a common ancestor within the last ~1500 years or more. The two main groups are a cluster of Corrigan families of the yDNA normally associated with the Ui Neill Clan, and another R1b cluster of Corrigan families sharing distinct markers (results), associated with many families, including the McGuires. All these Corrigan families trace back to Counties Mayo, Roscommon, Down, Tryone, Cavan and Dublin. We also have a Corrigan family from Co Limerick who show the distinctive markers associated with certain families found in Leinster and along the Irish Sea, and another Corrigan family, who show the markers associated with families found mainly in the South of Ireland. The rest of the men have either no close matches in the group or are in another haplogroup, I1, which cannot be genetically related to the Carrucans in thousands of years. So far we have no matches between the any of the Corrigans and Frank.

Whilst it still a little too early to say that we have no connection to the Corrigans genetically, as we have only a few members tested from the Limerick, Derry and Kilkenny so far, it is quite clear that we do not share any common ancestry with the main groups from the north. It will be interesting to see if any Corrigans from Co Clare or Tipperary test. Will we match them?

Frank is R1b-L21 which is found all along the Atlantic coast of Western Europe, and is predominant in Ireland. It is the parent of all the main Irish R1b subgroups, like the "NW Irish/Lowland Scottish Type" (associated with the Ui Neill), "South Irish Type" (Eoganacht surnames and Munster surnames), "Irish Type 3" (Dalcassian Clans of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick), "Leinster/Lagin Irish Type", "Irish Type V" (Oriel families), and the "Colla Uais/Dal Raita Type. But Frank does not match any of these groups.

Looking at Frank's matches with other surnames, his closest match is with the family Longacre, from Sweden, and also matches with Farells from Wicklow and Campion from Kilkenny. Is this a common ancestry with a Viking raider to Ireland, an Irish slave to Scandinavia or something else?

Frank also has an unusual value at one marker, which puts him more apart from most R1b men. It would be interesting to see if this mutation is just in Frank's (Patrick) line or if it is shared in the Michael and Peter lines. For this we would need another male Carrucan on either of these lines to test. This would also help in matching with others, in case we do have separate mutations in the lines.

The Corrigan surname Project can be seen at: <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/corrigan>

References to various spellings of Carrucan can be seen at: <http://vrwc.org.au/carrucan/ccgen1.shtml>

MacLysaught, Edward. *The Surnames of Ireland*. Dublin, Irish University Press, 1969.

Sykes, Brian. *Saxons, Vikings, and Celts. The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland*. New York, Norton & Company, 2006.