

One or two people have asked me to explain my Big Y chart, so here goes ...

- The bar at the top represents the SNP L1065, which is often associated with the Dál Riata tribe, which populated the Western Highlands and Islands (as well as Antrim in Northern Ireland) before the Vikings came. L1065 has been dated to around 44 AD. (The attribution of dates to specific SNP's relies on assumptions about average mutation rates and is very rough.)
- The next bar on the chart is S744 (about 223 AD), which predates one of the major splits that characterize some of the better-known Scottish clans. We Griffins have the SNP S764 (about 575 AD) in our Y chromosomes, which we share with the McFarlanes, the McCoys, the Macdonalds and many other clans.
- The SNP A13318 occurred about 901 AD and was first found in my own DNA (a fact which I am quite proud of!). Don't be fooled by the exact-sounding date – the error bar is huge, possibly hundreds of years, but we are still well before the period when surnames started to be used widely in Scotland. Besides the Kerry Griffins, this SNP has been found in a dozen or so Cowans, McKinleys, McIntyres, Milnes etc.
- The next box contains several SNP's including A13315 and now we are in Kerry Griffin territory. By that I mean that all of our group possess this SNP and I have not seen any non-Kerry Griffin with it. That may change, of course, as more men test and sooner or later the SNP's in this box may split into different branches. The date on A13315 is 1383 AD (+/- 200 years), but this could still be hundreds of years before our ancestor arrived in County Kerry.
- This is also the period when the STR DYS590 changed from 8 to 7, which is a useful identifying characteristic for the Kerry Griffins, especially for those who have not taken the Big Y test.
- After A13315, the tree splits into three branches, all of which are represented by living Griffins with a Kerry heritage, so the division(s) either took place after our common ancestor arrived in Munster, or else the three groups derive from different members of a family that arrived together.
- Dingle on the chart refers to the Dingle Peninsula (*Corca Dhuibhne*) in western County Kerry, Ireland.
- The first of the three branches contains – so far! – just one living example from: from Gowlin, near Dingle town (*Daingean Uí Chúis*), so I have called this the “Far West Dingle” branch.
- I had named the second branch “Western and Eastern Dingle”. There are nine men in this group. It is worth noting that two Griffins took the older Big Y 500 test (light blue boxes), while the others all took the current Big Y 700 version (dark blue boxes). This can be important because the Big Y 700 test is better at finding private SNP's (i.e. SNP's that so far have only been found in one sample), so this affects assignment of dates.
- The third branch contains all the “non-Dingle” men, i.e. those with ancestry from Glenbeigh, Ardfert etc. There are nine men so far in this group, including myself. My own origins (number 450455) are still mysterious, since my forefather left Kerry for Tipperary quite early.. The light green boxes mean that two Griffins tested for specific SNP's rather than take the Big Y.
- All this is still consistent with the hypothesis that the Griffins spread out from a nucleus near Castlemaine/Castle Drum, where they settled in about 1600.

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