

# **The Blood of the Isles**

## **The Carswell DNA Study**

Part One

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*“For that is the mark of the Scots of all classes: that he stands in an attitude towards the past unthinkable to Englishmen, and remembers and cherishes the memory of his forebears, good or bad; and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation”.*

*ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON - Weir of Hermiston, 1894*

### ***Introduction***

The Carswell DNA study group was organized toward the end of 2006 with the goals:

1. To identify the modal familial haplogroups and clade lines within the family;
2. To confirm relationships between families;
3. To identify previously unknown relationships;
4. To contribute to the study of British and Irish clan history and population movements over time.

Currently we have the results for four lines (Table I), with a fifth result expected in the near future. The results can also be accessed at [www.ftdna.com/public/carswell](http://www.ftdna.com/public/carswell).

These results are from Carswell individuals originating in the Neilston area of Renfrewshire, Scotland, and we are actively soliciting for other Carswells to test in order to peer a bit further back in the mists of time.

### ***Background***

Unlike other chromosomes, Y chromosomes do not come in pairs, and every human male has only one copy of that chromosome. That chromosome is always an exact copy (barring mutation) of his father's. Within genealogical and popular discussion this is sometimes referred to as the "DNA signature" or, more correctly "haplotype" of a particular male human - his paternal bloodline. This bloodline can be traced back in time tens of thousands of years.

A classification system has been developed by the research community which gives an alphabetical designation to the major haplotypes. These are known as 'haplogroups'.

Currently, all the Carswell results are confirmed as belonging to a particular variety of the 'I' haplogroup. According to current theories, Haplogroup I first arrived in Europe around 20,000-25,000 years ago from the Middle East, perhaps associated with the Gravettian culture, and just prior to the onset of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM).

*"The LGM refers to the time of maximum extent of the ice sheets during the last glaciation (the Würm or Wisconsin glaciation), approximately 20,000 years ago. The conditions of the Last Glacial Maximum persisted for probably two thousand years. At this time, all of Northern Europe, almost all of Canada and the northern half of the West Siberian Plain were covered by huge ice sheets extending roughly to the southern boundary of the Great Lakes in North America and to a line from the mouth of the Rhine River through Kraków, Moscow up to the mouth of the Anabar River in Russia".*<sup>1</sup>

The mutation that defines haplogroup I (M170) has no native frequency outside of Europe and is therefore believed to designate a native European type. The highest frequency of Haplogroup I can be found in the Scandinavian and German populations as well as populations in the Adriatic region.

*"During the Last Glacial Maximum, Haplogroup I may have diversified in isolated local refuges in the Balkan mountains, into at least four descendent gene groups (clades), followed by several post LGM dispersals into Northern Europe".*<sup>2</sup>

## Results

To date, all Carswells tested are of the clade **I1b2a1** – previously known as **I1c-Isles**. This has been found exclusively among the population of Great Britain, which has been taken to suggest that the clade has a very long history in those islands.

Stephen Oppenheimer, a noted authority, has recently suggested the time of settlement as being some 12,000 years ago.<sup>3</sup> There has been some debate as to the accuracy of this time scale.

In addition to the DNA evidence, Oppenheimer states that *"There is in fact some archaeological evidence for cultural links between the North Sea Plain Continental cultures and the 'Cresswellian' sites of Norfolk and Kent in the final stages of the Late Upper Palaeolithic, before the younger dryas. This would be consistent with the distribution and age of (I1b2a1) there".*<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last\\_Glacial\\_Maximum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last_Glacial_Maximum)

<sup>2</sup> Oppenheimer, S. 2006. *The Origins of the British*, Constable, London, 124pp

<sup>3</sup> Ibid 130pp

<sup>4</sup> Ibid 129pp

The Cresswellian Culture is the name given to cave sites at Cresswell Crags, a limestone gorge in Derbyshire. It is the site of the only known examples of Palaeolithic art in Britain. Also, the presence of unique flints of the 'Font-Robert' period indicates a strong connection to the Gravettian culture of Europe, thought to be associated with Haplogroup I.

The archaeologist V.G. Childe notes that in the Derbyshire and Wye Valley digs "*In the middle zone ..... a poor flint industry in the Cresswellian tradition but associated with a recent temperate fauna seems to denote a survival of the old palaeolithic stock....(and later) even colonized Ireland.... The flint, bounteously exposed along the Antrim coast, provided ample material for the development of local styles... Some members of the same group crossed over to Kintyre, where similar implements, made of Antrim flint, have been collected in the 25-ft. Beach at Campbeltown.*"<sup>5</sup>

Thus, it would appear from the evidence that a Gravettian culture survived the last cooling period (now called the "younger dryas") in Derbyshire (which occurred around 12,000 years ago and would support Oppenheimer's claims) and then from an estimated population of 250 persons expanded and eventually reached Ireland, probably from Corsewall in Galloway. From here they probably re-entered Britain at Campbeltown from Antrim.

From Carswell family DNA results and a very recent DNA project by Trinity College, Dublin, there has been revealed a very specific Carswell DNA relationship to the **Dal n'Araidhe** and **Ui Eachach Cobha** tribes of Antrim and County Down, Ireland.<sup>6, 7</sup>

In Ireland, the Dal n'Araidhe and Ui Eachach Cobha are acknowledged by historians, ancient and modern, as being "Cruithin" - the original inhabitants of Ireland. Their two main chieftains lines today are Maguinness (Dal n'Araidhe) and Macartan (Ui Eachach Cobha - an offshoot of the Dal n'Arade).

These tribes have a very long history of emigration and trade within the region of the Irish Sea. With the inhospitable terrain, sea travel was the preferred method of travel, and the communities on either side were united by the sea, rather than cut off by it.

The Dal n'Araidhe were allies of the Dal Riata who, with their rivals the Dal Fiatach were tribes of Ulster who famously settled Argyle and formed the nation of Dalriada. They were known to the Romans as 'Scotti' and eventually came to dominate, then absorb the Picts of Alba and form the modern nation of Scotland.

Statistical analysis has revealed a close relationship of the Carswell lines to that of the Macartans of County Down, with a slightly less close relationship to the McGuinness'.

Of 13 McCartan sampled by the Trinity College project, 6 are listed as haplogroup I. The other 7 are R1b3 (indicative of the *Uí Néill* dynasty). Out of 59 Maguinness samples listed as 'Ulster' or as 'origin unknown', 32 are also haplogroup I, or 54% of

<sup>5</sup> Child, V.G. 1940, Prehistoric Communities of the British Isles, Chambers, London, 19-20pp.

<sup>6</sup> South, G., 2006. Private Correspondence.

<sup>7</sup> McEvoy, B. & Bradley, D.G. 2006. Y Chromosomes and the extent of patrilineal ancestry in Irish surnames. European Journal of Human Genetics, issue 119, 212-219pp

the total. So these large percentages are statistically very significant. It has been stated that the Maguinness chieftain line are "I1c" (I1b2a1) haplotype <sup>8</sup>.

The Carswell name has a long history in Strathclyde, from the western towns across to Glasgow and then to Edinburgh and Fife. It would seem however, that the largest concentration is in the region of Glasgow, South Paisley and Neilston.

Many of the Carswell family around the world trace their line back to the area surrounding the town of Neilston, 20km SW of Glasgow in Renfrewshire.

This land comprised a number of hamlets around the town of Neilston and Neilston Pad (an imposing hill which apparently played an important part in many of the border wars & skirmishes). Significant settlements here are Over Carswell, Nether Carswell, East Carswell and West Carswell, Carswell Law, Drumgrain, Duncarnock, Craig of Neilston and Fingalton. The area lies on the high ground between the two roads to Glasgow from the coast, at Ayr.

Timothy Pont's map of 1590 places 'Karswell' and 'n. carsewel' in the same location as the modern hamlets of Carswell and Nether Carswell, close to Long Loch and 5 kilometres SW of Neilston.

There is a family tradition that much of the land in the district had been owned by the Carswell families, but over time had gradually been lost. There does not appear to be any record of this. Most of the property in the Neilston area was early owned by the Abbots of Paisley (1219-1587), then the Stewarts and their vassals, the Wallaces, after whom it was bought in 1769 by Alexander Spiers of the Elderslie Estate, in whose possession it remains. Other large landholders included the Mures of Caldwell and the Pollocks of that ilk. Throughout this recorded time the Carswells appear to have been tenant farmers, merchants, lawyers and clergy. From time to time there were families who owned their properties. Carswell families appear to have farmed most (if not all) of the land around the area at one time or another, however.

Some 10km down the valley toward Inchinnan from here is the ancient Wall's Hill Fort, thought to be the main fort of the Damnonii (and origin of a king of Strathclyde, Dunwallon).

"The rampart enclosing the summit was of earth, with stone kerbs, probably furnished with a timber revetment at the front. It had been reconstructed at least once. There are no surface traces of dwellings, but excavations in 1956 and later years revealed the foundations of circular, timber-walled huts, one of which produced Early Iron Age pottery". <sup>9</sup>

The farm containing the fort site is called "Castle Wall Farm". "Wall" is thought to refer to the name that these Celts were called and is synonymous with "Wealh" and means "Briton". It also means 'foreigner'.

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<sup>8</sup> Patrick Maguinness, 2006. Private Correspondence.

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/pls/portal/newcanmore.details\\_gis?inumlink=43011](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/pls/portal/newcanmore.details_gis?inumlink=43011)

Newall states that it was probable that the initial occupation of this site ended with the arrival of the Romans. However, his excavations showed that somewhere between the first and fourteenth, very possibly between the fourth and eleventh centuries, the site was re-occupied.<sup>10</sup>

The fort of Al Cluith (Dumbarton) suggests similar re-occupation.

When the Romans arrived in Scotland, it was recorded that it was the Damnoni tribe who was settled in the lands of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire and parts of Stirlingshire.

There were also Damnoni tribes known in Devon, Brittany and Ireland. They all spoke old British, a P-Celtic language similar to Welsh.

One account states that: "These were the Dumnonii, who gave their name to Devon, while their most powerful Irish branch was known as the Laigin, and gave their name to Leinster. The Dumnonii (or Domnonii) settled as a distinct tribal population in the south of England and in several areas of Ireland, exercising overlord status over larger regions. A branch from Ireland settled in the area south of Dumbarton in southern Scotland before the arrival of the Romans in the mid-first century A.D., and became the ancestors of the Strathclyde Britons".<sup>11</sup>

As Dumbarton is on the North shore of the Clyde River, the first district to the south would be Renfrewshire.

It is probable that the Damnoni of Strathclyde believed in the same myths and legends as the other Celtic tribes. Indeed, some of the Irish myths seem to originate in Strathclyde; one of the greatest heroes of the Ultonian cycle can be traced to British origin:- Cuchulain, the warrior hero of King Conor mac Nessa, is most likely British.

"The Irish legends hint at the British origin of this warrior hero. There is a battle Cuchulain fights with Ferdia, a Damnonian. Cuchulain tells Ferdia that he is unwilling to fight Ferdia, as they are friends and of the same race".<sup>12</sup>

The Carswell family seem to have had a close relationship with the Campbells at some stage(s). John Carswell, Bishop of the Isles, was the Domine of the Earl of Argyll, as his father had been before him (and before that?) as well as being the Constable of Carnasserie Castle. This suggests a special relationship between them.

The position of "cearbhaill" or "battle leader"<sup>13</sup> to a tribal chief was a celtic tradition. O'Curry states in "Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History", Lecture XVIII, that many of these champions were ollaves (expert teachers) of martial skills and educated the noble sons of Erin.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Newall, F. 1960. (1960 a) Excavations at Walls Hill, Renfrewshire, Paisley Press, 1-39pp.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.templum.freeserve.co.uk/history/celts/damnoni.htm>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.templum.freeserve.co.uk/history/celts/damnoni.htm>

<sup>13</sup> Pronounced 'Karwell' or 'Kerwell'

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.clancian-carroll.com/champion.shtml>

The celebrated Irish Abbot, Saint Moluag of Lismore was recorded to be of high birth within the Dal n'Araidhe. He is the patron saint of the Campbells of Argyle. The Scottish John Carswell, Bishop of the Isles, was probably also Dal n'Araidhe and therefore 'Fine Erluma' or "Tribe of the Saint" and would have had a heritable right to a pre-eminent position among the Campbells.

"St. Patrick himself had a "tren-fer" (cearbhail), St. MacCarthen, afterwards first bishop of Clogher, whose peaceful function was to carry the aged saint on his back across fords and other difficult places, on their missionary journeys."

St Patrick had spent 7 years as a slave in the land of the dal n'Araidhe and returned to bring them christianity. It is of interest to the Carswell family that his carbhail was a MacCarthen. Also, that it seems St Patrick was himself a strathclyde Briton.

"Ethnically these Strathclyde Britons were Laiginian, being descended from a Dumnonian influx from Ireland"<sup>15</sup>

The Campbell's historians are on record as saying that they believe the Carswells were probably 'Campbells of Corsewall'.<sup>16</sup> Indeed, there is a 17th century map which has "Caswell" at a place approximating the Corsewall lighthouse on the Northern coast of the Rhins of Galloway.



<sup>15</sup> <http://www.clankennedy.org/erainn3.htm>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.ccsna.org/castles/carnasserie.html>

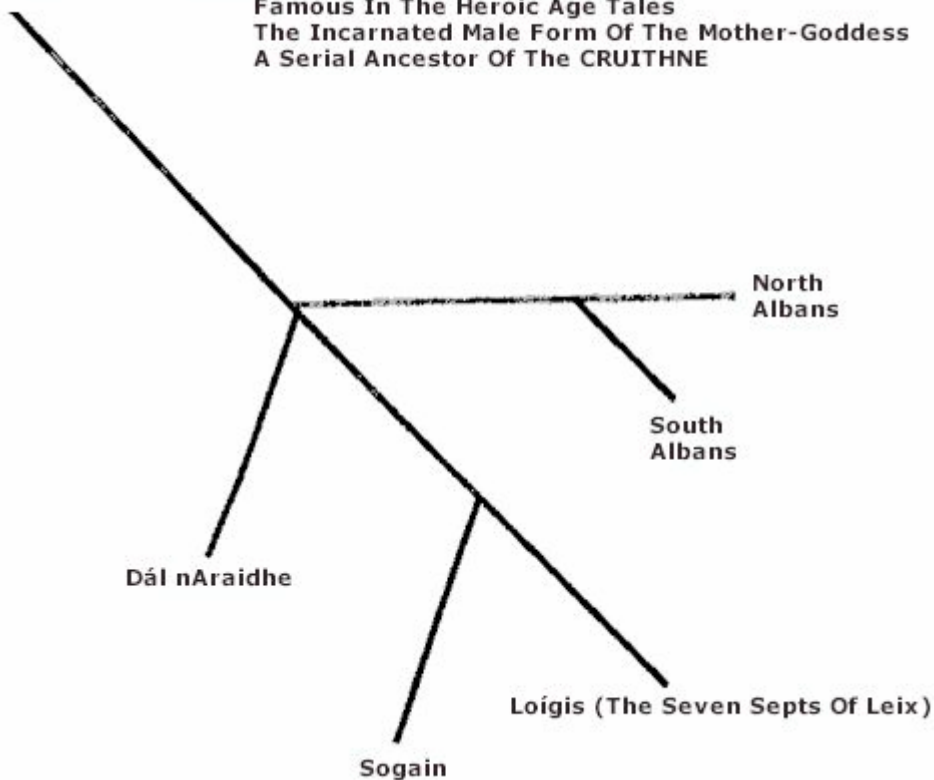
This would sit very comfortably with the DNA link to the Dal n'Araidhe and Ui Eachach Cobha of Antrim and County Down.

At this stage, there does not appear to be significant Y-DNA connections to the Campbells. As noted previously, however, it is believed the Campbells to be Laiginian, and there is a significant Laiginian connection.

"The Loígis, Laígisi or Laoighisi, were mercenary tribes of the Laigin and possibly of Cruithin origin. The Loígis claim descendancy from Lugaid Loígsech, son of Conall Cernach. From Conall's line also descend the Dál n-Araide of Ulster".<sup>17</sup>

## conall cearnach

Famous In The Heroic Age Tales  
The Incarnated Male Form Of The Mother-Goddess  
A Serial Ancestor Of The CRUITHNE



The grandson of the Romano-British chieftain of the Damnonii, Quintillus, was Coroticus. Around 400 AD, he was recognized as the first true king of the region. Coroticus, to bolster his army, invited several Gaelic clans, fleeing the ever expanding power of the Ui Neill (a competing dynasty), to settle on their coast in exchange for service in his army, and invited several Pictish families to do the same in the north. The army of Alclud was well organized, and powerful. The Gaelic annals record the presence of a regular office that managed the hiring of mercenary companies, and regular pay and outfitting.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.rootsweb.com/~irlkik/ihm/leinst2.htm>

The Neilston area has been subject to a number of 'migrations', notably by the Irish gael (mostly Cruithin tribes) between the 4th and 9th centuries. The Angles of Northumbria were next to arrive, between the 9th and 10th century, followed then by the Picts and the Dalriadans (as previously noted, a number of Irish tribes, collectively known as 'Scotti') who had established themselves in Argyll.

There is thus a landscape filled in by many brushes. The current DNA study indicates that the 4 Carswells tested (to this date, July 2007) are all distantly related and it is 95% probable that they shared a common ancestor some 900 years ago. This would be approximately the 11th Century AD, and provides a substantial clue to dating.

An important Carswell link to Galloway has recently been identified. DeBoo and Searle<sup>18</sup> note an item in a manuscript entitled "*Garlieston, Then and Now*" that:

*"When Lord Garlies picked the land of Pouton as the situation for the new residence of the Earls of Galloway in the mid-18th century, a small fishing hamlet known as **Carswell** was near the chosen site. He made plans to re-site the village on a "shelving sea beach" where two burns, the Pouton Burn and the Kilfillan Burn, ran into the crescent of Pouton Bay. The new village, still called locally **Carswell** for a time, was (later) officially named Garliestown to perpetuate the name of the founder. Pouton Bay was renamed Garliestown Bay."*

The original village occupied what would appear to be one of the more pleasant locations in southern Scotland and says much for his Lordships judgement.

In looking about the landscape for environmental clues, we quickly find the nearest substantial development to be on the very next point of land to the south. Here are the remains of Cruggleton Castle, previously been built on the site of an iron age fort.

It was once once one of the most substantial castles in Scotland, and perhaps the most defensible in the whole of Britain. The precipice on which it was situated is fully 200 feet above the sea. It covered about one and a half acres of land. Within the walls, which were battlemented, there was a courtyard, and buildings with eight towers. Another wall lined the interior side of the fosse or moat, fifty feet wide, and very deep, over which was a drawbridge. The gate was strongly fortified, with a guardhouse over it and portcullis. Landward, it was considered impregnable.

It was built by the Norse and given to the family of the Irish "King" Cairill (who had long before settled in Ayreshire) by King David I at the beginning of the 12th century.

McKerlie<sup>19</sup> writes:

*The date of Thorfin's death, and the short rule of King Magnus, corroborate the statements handed down in regard to the first occupation by the Cairills, who obtained possession about the beginning of the twelfth century. Their ancestor was*

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<sup>18</sup> DeBoo, R. F. & Searle, J.N.C. 2004. A Carswell Family of Kirkgunzeon Parish, Scotland, Victoria, BC, pp. 3-9.

<sup>19</sup> McKerlie, P.H. 1877. History of the Lands and Their Owners In Galloway, Volume 1, Paterson, Edinburgh



*Cairill, an Irish king, or chief, who passed over to Scotland in the tenth century, it is believed, and obtained a grant of lands in Carrick, Ayrshire, which took from him the name of Caroltoun, now Carleton, {see Dailly parish}. The Irish Chronicles inform us of the great power the Cairills at one time possessed in Ireland. They ruled over a large section of that country, several being kings or chiefs, the principal of all having been the chief of Oriel, and Arch King of Argiall, whose territory was the present counties of Monaghan, Louth, &c., Eile or Ely, now called King's, and also the county of Fermanagh, with the Hall and Court of Tara, in Meath, were possessed by the others. Previously the name seems to have been Cairill, as found in the Annals of Tighernac. In "A.D.582, Baidan Mac Cairill Ri Uladh obit." which in English is, "Baidan, son of Cairill, King of Ulster, died."*

McKerlie (writing what appears to be his own family history) cites a poem published in 1570 regarding the name **Keirly**, which had become the family name by that time:

*"Keirly in Irish is but Ker Little call'd,  
In Carrick he had heritage of ald.  
His forbear, which aye worthy was of hand,  
St. David King, him brought out of Ireland.  
Syne at Dunmoir, where first Norways came in,  
This Ker made great discomfiture of their kin,  
With seven hundred vanquished nine thousand,  
Some drown'd in Doon, some slain upon the land.  
Those whole lands the King gave him until,  
How Wallace past now further speak I will."*

These Ker were the *O'Cearbhaill of Ely* who wrote themselves into Irish history with their very significant contribution at the Battle of Clontarf (1014) in which the Irish defeated the Norwegian, Danish and Norman vikings and warriors (as well as a significant percentage of the European nobility), under the leadership of Brian Boru and ended the viking domination of the Irish coast.

O'Hart <sup>20</sup>, as well as the O'Carrolls<sup>21</sup> accept the family name Karwell as belonging to the O'Cearbhaill of Ely sept.

The name 'Cearbhaill', meaning 'war leader' (cear: slaughter Bhaill: leader) and is actually the title of a traditional position within the royal courts of the celts on both sides of the Irish sea. The British celtic leader fighting the Romans on their first arrival is called "Caswallon" for instance, as is a famous Welsh king. Legend has at least one of them in exile in Ireland.

A direct connection of that name to the other Scottish Carswell families has not been found (or necessarily claimed!), so we must search for other co-incidences of fact to guide us. Of particular interest is the fact that it was a McKerlie of Cruggleton who was beside William Wallace from his initial acts of rebellion until his capture (and McKerlie's death) as a result of the treachery of the Scottish nobility. The lands of Neilston, in which most Carswell are found, was owned by the Wallace family until

<sup>20</sup> O'Hart, J. 1881. Irish Pedigrees; or, the Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edn. Q.U.I., Dublin

<sup>21</sup> [www.clancian-carroll.com](http://www.clancian-carroll.com)

the 19th century. The Wallaces were british vassals of the Stewarts, who were Laiginian.

Another interesting note is that the closest families to the Carswells, identified by DNA, are the Carsons. Car and Ker appear to have been interchangeable and a simple matter of regional dialect perhaps reflecting artifacts of the P and Q Celtic language divisions. The Carson surname in the 1881 census shows Galloway and then Ayre as being the areas of highest density in Britain.

John Carswell, Bishop of the Isles <sup>22</sup> and John Ballentine Carswell <sup>23</sup> state that the family name in gaelic was 'Carsallach'. This would suggest a similar origin. i.e. the family (son) of Car/Ker, where the gaelic use of 'alach' is:

*[àlach] nm. g.v. -aich; pl. -aichean, brood, tribe, generation; set of oars, set of nails.* <sup>24</sup>

It may be that the 'well' in Carswell is used in the sense of "springing forth from" rather than the more english place name concept. It is certain, however, that the origins of the I1b2a1 Carson family are the same as that of the Carswells.

Whether a Ker/Kerlie/Carrol connection to the Kirkgunzeon Carswell hamlet is justified is probably best analysed in the light of other facts which we know. There is certainly a relationship to the Campbells, and they are of the Laigin. As it turns out, so are the O'Carrols. Research reveals that the Leinster O'Carrols relied for their tremendous military strength on the Loigis, who trace their ancestry back to the Dal n'Araidhe.

The Ulster tribes website <sup>25</sup> cites:

*"Clan O'More - (Mhordha, Moore, More) We are of the Loígis Tribe of the Moores/O'Mores. Clan-Na -Rory is our original home. We are of the line from the Ulsterman, Conall Cernach. Modern times find us in Leinster. The name Mhórdha is now O'More. The Loígis, Laígisi or Laoighisi, were mercenary tribes of the Laigin and probably of Cruithin origin. The Loígis claim descent from Lugaid Loígsech, son of Conall Cernach. From Conall's line also descend the Dál n-Araide of Ulster. We also have some fame from the uprising of Chief Rory O'More. Today we are closely linked with the O'Carrolls".*

The clan O'More historian <sup>26</sup> describes how the Laigin King, Cuchorb, son of Modhachorb, faced an invading army from Munster and enlisted his friend Eochaidh Fionn, (the second son of Feidhlimi Reachmar, Monarch of Ireland) to raise an army.

Laoighseach Cean More was the son of Connall Cearnach and had been raised with Eochaidh Fionn in the celtic tradition of fosterage. He was made General of the combined force and the Munster men were slaughtered almost to a man.

<sup>22</sup> Carswell, J. 1567. Fiorm na nUrrnuidheadh. Lekprevik, Edinburgh, preface

<sup>23</sup> Carswell, J. B. 1920. Private Correspondence

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.clanmacrae.org/documents/gaelic-a.htm>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.ulsterclans.org>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.clanomore.com>

*“Laoighseach, the General of the confederate army, who had his education with Eochaidh Fionn, he rewarded with the seven Laoighises, to be enjoyed by him and his heirs, for he confessed that the success of the expedition was owing to the valour and conduct of the General, whose military experience gave him the advantage over the incapacity of the commanding officer in the enemy’s army, which he made that use of to obtain a complete victory. From this insistence of gratitude to Laoighseach, the posterity of this General took upon themselves the Title of Kings of Leix or Leise.”<sup>27</sup>*

Further strong indications that the Kirkgunzeon Carswell hamlet/Carrol connection may have some basis is the fact that the central Loigis territories of Tuath-Fiodhbhuidh and Caladibui were the provinces of the McEvoy<sup>28</sup>, many of whom are known to be of the Dal n’Araidhe I1b2a1 dna line.<sup>29</sup>

The O’More and Macartan heraldic devices use the same emblem – a gold lion rampant on a green field.

But what of more closer links? Again, the landscape provides clues. The Carswell and Nether Carswell hamlets lie close to Long Loch, which is the head water of the White Cart Stream, one of the tributaries of the Clyde River. Using aerial photographs (or Google Earth), one can see the remains of a fort on the top of the hill which encloses the loch to the SW. These remains are obvious, but do not appear to be listed in any government or private archaeological or historical database.

The hill on which the fort is located (below) is identified on only one map, that of Ainslie, 1745. Here it is called "Lagging Hill". There does not appear to be a similar gaelic word, and the english means 'to whip' or suchlike. It could, however, be the usual scottish misspelling of "Laign Hill".

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<sup>27</sup> [http://www.clannada.org/culture\\_adoption.php](http://www.clannada.org/culture_adoption.php)

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.clanomore.com/journal.htm>

<sup>29</sup> McEvoy, B. & Bradley, D.G. 2006. Y Chromosomes and the extent of patrilineal ancestry in Irish surnames. European Journal of Human Genetics, issue 119, 212-219pp



The exact nature of this construction is not known at this time. It is possible it could be Roman, of course. There may well be local knowledge of the artifact, but I have been unable to discover it.

This fort is perfectly placed to keep an eye on the back door to the upper Clyde valley. It lies on the highest ground between the two roads from Ayr to Glasgow and Paisley. Walls Hill Fort lies astride the third road from the coast, coming from Kilbarchan.

For defence, the ambush site may well have been what is now Harelaw dam, but was then a boggy piece of very low land where an army could be trapped. It has been noted by John Carswell of Stewarts River<sup>30</sup> how Harelaw was the site of many battles in the area.

## *Summary*

This family are members of a long established and geographically widespread population, which, given the long duration of residence in that region of the British Isles, represents a core group of original inhabitants who have survived ethnic and environmental pressures to establish successful family lines.

The DNA of all current Carswell Y-DNA study participants is I1b2a1. This is the cell line of a well documented Ulster family line (Uí Eachach Cobha and Dal n'Araidhe) which has a history of migration to the area, mainly in the 4th and 9th centuries AD, but also over a period of considerable time previously, dating back to the Late Upper Palaeolithic. This Neilston family seems to have had a strong relationship with another group (the Laigin) with whom there were also well documented treaties and alliances dating back to Roman times and before. The Laigin are reputed to have arrived some 100 years before the Romans, from Brittany.

Current evidence seems to suggest that it is most likely that an ancestor or family arrived from Ireland in the 10th or 11th century AD, possibly as a member of a mercenary tribe providing protection to a colony group establishing itself., however, it is also possible that the cell line represents an earlier, now forgotten, occupation of the land of Western Scotland and Ireland, linked by the Irish Sea.

Corsewall is directly across Loch Ryan from the now forgotten town of Innermessan, perhaps the Roman "Rerigonium" - one of the 3 ancient kingdoms of Britain.

"Innermessan was not only at one time a "considerable place"; it is also a place of great antiquity. The earliest settlement dates to the arrival of the first human beings in Galloway 10,000 years ago. The evidence for this is a scatter of 23 flints found in the field in the angle between the A77 and the road to Innermessan farm on the south side of the latter road. This represents the debris from the manufacture of weapons and tools by a group of our Mesolithic ancestors who camped here for a time in the course of their nomadic existence. Indeed they may have returned on several occasions for the site enjoys numerous natural advantages, best appreciated from Balyett picnic site to the south. With sea level higher than today, here was a break in the escarpment of the coastline creating a good launching - and landing place for

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<sup>30</sup> Carswell, J. Private Correspondence.

fishing in the loch. An ample supply of fresh water from the burn and sheltered ground for an encampment made the site a Mesolithic estate agent's star property”<sup>31</sup>

This is the state of our investigations to date. Current efforts are directed at:

1. Establishing whether the Argyll family of Carswells are genetically related.
2. Investigating the archaeological remains on Lagging Hill.
3. Improving and increasing the information on the carswell website and database.
4. Increasing the overall number of Carswell family lines tested.
5. Investigating the migration pattern.

Currently, only lines which originate in the lands near Neilston have been tested (see Table I). We would like to try and identify a migration pattern if this is possible. How far back was the common ancestor? The more and distant the lines tested, the more accurate this will be. How long has each location been settled? Where and how does the name Carswell originate? DNA testing is able to provide many clues and the occasional definitive answers to many of these questions.

The study project needs the help of other Carswell men prepared to assist with 37 marker tests (this is the accepted familial minimum currently) in order to find the answers to these questions and indeed others which haven't been asked yet.

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<sup>31</sup> Hunter, J. (undated). The Lost Town of Innermessan, Stranraer and District Local History Trust, Stranraer, 1pp.

Table I. Summary of results for the Carswell DNA Study to July 2007 – the first four.

DYS#	Jack	Ian	John	Keith
393	15	15	14	16
390	24	24	24	24
19	16	16	16	16
391	10	10	10	10
385a	15	15	15	15
385b	16	16	16	16
426	11	11	11	11
388	13	13	13	13
439	11	11	11	13
389-1	13	13	13	13
392	12	12	12	12
389-2	29	29	29	29
458	17	17	17	17
459a	8	8	8	8
459b	9	9	9	9
455	11	11	11	11
454	11	11	11	11
447	26	26	26	26
437	15	15	15	15
448	20	20	20	20
449	28	28	28	28
464a	11	11	11	11
464b	11	11	11	11
464c	14	14	14	14
464d	15	15	15	15
460	11	11	11	11
GATA H4	10	10	10	10
YCA II a	19	19	19	19
YCA II b	21	21	21	21
456	14	15	14	14
607	14	14	14	14
576	19	19	19	19
570	17	17	18	18
CDY a	31	31	31	31
CDY b	36	37	37	37
442	12	12	12	12
438	10	10	10	10