What can Y-DNA analysis reveal about the surname Hay?

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Abstract

The family name Hay (plus associated spelling variants) is a prominent Anglo-Norman-in-

origin surname that has been well-documented as a Scottish noble lineage since the 12th

century CE. Their historical significance, linked to the rise of the Anglo-Norman era (1093-

1286 CE) in Scotland, and the historical complexities of surname adoption post-Norman

conquest of England, justifies the need for a comprehensive understanding of the genetic

history of the Hay noble lineage. This study focuses on examining the patterns of paternal

inheritance in lineages with the Hay surname. We conducted a comprehensive analysis of Y-

chromosome data that is publicly available on the Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) platform, and

specific FTDNA surname projects, as well as looking in more detail at three well-documented

male-line descendants of William II de la HAYA, 1st of Erroll, (d. 1201) that have been verified

to a high degree of confidence. Our results reveal that all descendants of William II de la

HAYA, 1st of Erroll, (d. 1201) derive from the multigenerational Y-SNPs R1a-YP6500 (plus

equivalent SNPs BY33394 / FT2017) and R1a-FTT161. Furthermore, subclades of R1a-

FTT161 have been identified that confirm direct male-line descent from two of William II de

la HAYA's sons. Subclade R1a-BY199342 (plus equivalents) confirms direct male-line

descent from David de la HAYA, 2nd of Erroll, (d. 1241), and subclade R1a-FTA7312

confirms direct male line decent from Robert de la HAYA of Erroll. The result also confirms

that the Hay noble lineage shares the Y-SNP R1a-YP4138 (estimated to have occurred 832

CE) with several non-Hay testers that have surnames of Norman origin, therefore, providing

further evidence to support the Norman origin hypothesis for these surnames. In addition to

the identification of multigenerational Y-SNPs associated to documented Hay noblemen, this

study has observed significant Y-DNA haplogroup diversity among males with the surname

Hay (plus associated spelling variants: Hays, Haye, Hayes, Hey and Haya). Our results

show that only 22% of the men sampled (n=109) with the surname Hay (plus associated

spelling variation) are descended from the 12th century progenitor of the noble Hay lineage

of Scotland. Therefore, confirming that a significant proportion of males with the surname

Hay do not descend from the noble progenitor of the surname.

Introduction

The lands of northern Britain that are now referred to as Scotland have not always been a

unified realm. Between the early seventh century until the mid-ninth century, northern Britain

was separated into four distinct kingdoms (1). The kingdom of Strathclyde was ruled by the

Britons and incorporated the southwest region of modern-day Scotland; however, a large

portion of this kingdom was incorporated into the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria by

the early eighth century which included the Lothians and the southeast border regions (1).

The lands that primarily encompassed the northeastern third of Scotland, stretching roughly

from the Firth of Forth in the south to Caithness and Orkney in the north was considered the

kingdom of Pictavia, and ruled by the Picts (1). The kingdom of Dál Riata was ruled by the

Scots, and their kingdom incorporated the western lands north of Loch Lomond and the

Hebrides Islands (1).

The four kingdoms remained relatively stable until a significant event took place in 844 CE

under the leadership of King Kenneth I (Cináed mac Alpin, died in 858 CE) who successfully

unified the kingdom of Dál Riata and Pictavia into a single kingdom often referred to as Alba

(2). Although the formation of the kingdom of Alba is generally considered the birth of

Scotland, Broun (2015) argues that it is a significant oversight and oversimplification of the

historical events that took place (3). Broun (1997) argues that it would not be until the

thirteenth century, during the Anglo-Norman era, when the term Scotia (Scotland) was

generally used when referring to the whole kingdom (4).

The Anglo-Norman era in Scotland (1093-1286 CE)

The revolutionary change in the governance of Scotland, termed the 'Anglo-Norman era',

was mainly facilitated by King David I of Scotland during his reign (c. 1124-1153 CE) (5).

However, the start of Norman influence in Scotland started with the Treaty of Abernethy,

where King Malcolm III of Scotland swore fealty to King William I of England in 1072 CE (6).

King William I of England died on 9 September 1087 CE, succeeded by his son William II

(commonly referred to as William Rufus). Malcolm III of Scotland went on to break the terms

of the Treaty of Abernethy by invading northern England several times in the early 1090s CE

(6). On the 13 November 1093 CE, King Malcolm III of Scotland invaded Berwick in northern

England with his son Edward (6). King Malcolm III of Scotland advanced to Alnwick and was

ambushed by English forces lead by Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumbria. Both King

Malcolm III of Scotland and his son Edward were killed, leaving the Scottish forces without

leadership, forcing their withdrawal back to the safety of Scotland, and facilitating the start of

the Anglo-Norman era (c. 1093-1286 CE) (6).

King David I of Scotland (1084-1153 CE) had a new vision for Scotland, an aspiration to

replicate the Norman feudal system imposed in England by King William I of England (c.

1066 CE) (5). To achieve his goal of adopting feudal tenure during his reign (c. 1124-1154

CE), King David I of Scotland attracted Anglo-Normans (people of higher social status of

Anglo-Norman, French, and Flemish origin) to Scotland by offering Scottish lands, royal

official appointments, noble titles, and knighthoods in return for feudal services (5). This

invitation radically changed the governance of Scotland and impacted on the demographics

of the Scottish population to an unknown degree (7).

The documented origins of the Hay surname and the earliest Hay progenitor in

Scotland

Among the foreign Anglo-Norman settlers of Scotland was the progenitor of the Scottish

noble lineage Hay of Erroll, described as William de la HAYA II, 1st of Erroll, (d.1201 CE) (8).

William de la HAYA II, 1st of Erroll was a Norman knight who is documented as cupbearer

(butler) of King William the Lion of Scotland who succeeded King Malcolm IV on 9 December

1165 CE (9). William de la HAYA II, 1st of Erroll (d. 1201 CE) is believed to be the son of

William de la HAYA I (born in Cotentin, Normandy) and Julianna de Soulis; sister of Ranulf

de Soulis, Lord Liddesdale (9), butler of King Malcolm IV, (c. 1153-1164 CE) (9-11). Black

(1946) argues that there are several village names starting with 'La Haye [haie/haia]' in

Normandy so one of these villages would be a good candidate for the origins of the surname

Haya (12) (e.g., La Haye-du-Puits or La Haye Bellefond, both in the Soules region). Ritchie

(1953) also supports La Haye-du-Puits as a possible origin of the Hay noble lineage of

Scotland; however, he offers La Haye-de-Herce and La Haye Malherbe as potential

alternatives (13). Moncrieffe (2010) argues that there is no doubt that their origins were from

Haye-Hue, (Haia-Hugonis, now La Haye-Bellefond) because the La Haye-Hue of Normandy

bear the same three escutcheons coat of arms used by the Hays of Erroll, and they also

marched with de Soules [Soulis] near St Lo in the Cotentin peninsular of Normandy (14).

Barrow (1973) also supports Haye-Hue (La Haye-Bellefond) as the place of origin of the Hay

noble lineage (15). The documented links between La Haye-Hue of Normandy, de Soulis

(Normandy and Liddesdale), and Hay of Erroll are not likely to be coincidental. The Hay

noble lineage firmly established their presence in Scotland, taking control of significant lands

located in the Scottish Lowlands (16), and playing a substantial role in Scottish history

thereafter. For example, Sir Gilbert de la HAY (d. 1333) was the fifth feudal Baron of Errol,

Lord High Constable of Scotland, and companion of King Robert the Bruce of Scotland. Sir

Gilbert de la HAY was one of the Scottish noblemen that signed the Declaration of Arbroath

on 6 April 1320 CE (17).

The evidence that links William de la HAYA I to Normandy is that 'la Haya' is likely a Norman

toponymic name, deriving its origin from a place called 'la Haye/Haie' in Normandy. McClure

(2015, 2020) argue the case that surnames such as 'de la Haye' and 'de la Mare' often

denote high ranking people from estates in Normandy (e.g., a notable individual from la Haie

'the enclosure' or la Mare 'the pool') (18, 19). However, McClure is also appropriately

cautious in linking these locations to one specific origin or family (19). There are several

villages in Normandy that have such place names, and Norman placenames were also

introduced to Britain via the linguistic legacy of the Norman Conquest of 1066 CE. When

William the Conqueror and his followers introduced Norman French culture, governance,

and language to Britain, placenames often reflected the new Norman elite's language,

ownership, heritage, or religious affiliations, and were either imposed on new settlements or

modified from existing Anglo-Saxon placenames. A good example is the placename Bernard

Castle in County Durham, a place deriving its name from Bernard Baliol I (died before 1167

CE), a baron of Norman descent (20). Other examples include Norman French placename

derived from descriptive words such as Belvoir (bel voir) in Leicestershire, meaning 'beautiful

view' (21) and Richmond in North Yorkshire that is derived from 'riche mont', meaning 'strong

hill' (21, 22). Therefore, there is a strong possibility that many unrelated people adopted

these surnames independently. Durie (2022) also highlights the complexities involved In

identifying surname origins in his essay on clans, families and kinship structures in Scotland

(23). He refers to the Hay noble lineage as being among the most influential families in

Scotland; however, he does not discuss their potential origins prior to Scotland (23). Durie

also highlights that having a surname that is specifically associated to nobility does not

guarantee direct paternal descent from that noble lineage (23).

Surname changes

Surname changes did historically take place with no documentational evidence to explain

why/how the change occurred. Instances of surname changes were often the result of

adoptions, divorce, out-of-wedlock conceptions, and extra-marital conceptions, so these

situations would often remain undocumented (24). The genealogical term for these

occurrences is a 'non-paternity event' (NPE) or a 'false paternal event' (FPE) (24), while

Larmuseau et al (2017) uses the term 'extra pair paternity' (EPP) (25). Avni et al, (2023)

suggested that the chances of a EPP taking place was between 1-5% in each generation,

with the chances of discovering a EPP increasing with each successive generation (e.g.,

there is a 10-50% chance of discovering a EPP over ten-generations) (24). Moreover, King

et al, (2014) revealed multiple instances of non-paternity in King Richard III's family tree

through the DNA analysis of material collected from his skeletal remains (26).

Traditional genealogical research heavily relies on documentary evidence to prove

genealogies (27, 28). The documentary evidence strongly suggests that William de la HAYA

II has direct paternal descendants surviving to the present (8, 29). However, traditional

genealogical evidence alone is limited because it cannot identify EPP occurring in any of the

intervening generations of a pedigree (23) unless they were documented. Based on the

evidence provided by Avni et al (2023), there is a good chance that someone with the

surname Hay does not descend from William de la HAYA II (24). Furthermore, to the best of

the authors' knowledge, William de la HAYA I's proposed link to Normandy is only supported

by limited toponymic evidence so the pursuit of further evidence to explore his origins is well

justified.

Genetic Genealogy

The advancements in DNA sequencing technology, and the development of haplotype-based

methods to detect population substructure have proven to provide insight into the degree of

shared ancestry between populations (30-33). A recent study by Morez et al (2023)

implemented FineSTRUCTURE clustering analysis and Identity-By-Descent (IBD) on

imputed diploid dataset of ancient Pictish and present-day Scottish genomes, revealing

partial population replacement taking place in eastern Scotland during the Anglo-Norman era

(34). Morez et al. (2023) demonstrated that there was less genetic affinity between present-

day eastern Scottish samples and the ancient Pictish genomes they sequenced, while

present-day western Scottish samples shared significantly more genetic affinity with the

ancient Pictish genomes (34). Furthermore, Morez et al. (2023) observed a clear genetic

signature that differentiated the eastern Scottish population (showing a greater genetic

affinity with populations with Anglo-Norman ancestry) from the western Scottish population

(showing a greater genetic affinity with ancient samples of Iron-Age-British and Pictish

ancestry) (34). Moreover, Gretzinger et al. (2022) observed a noticeable increase in Iron-

Age-French ancestry among the present-day English population when compared to the

ancient Iron-Age-British samples that have been sequenced (35). Gretzinger et al. (2022)

concluded that Iron-Age-French-like ancestry was likely introduced to England during the

early Medieval Age by people of Frankish-like origins and this continued through to the late

Medieval Age with the Normans (35).

King and Jobling, (2009) argued that because of the correlation between surnames being

traditionally inherited paternally, and Y-DNA being biologically passed on from father to son

virtually unchanged, the study of Y-DNA has been of great value to genealogical studies

investigating direct paternal ancestry (36). The consensus among researchers is that the

comparison of mutations found within the Y-chromosome's short tandem repeat markers (Y-

STRs) and single nucleotide polymorphisms (Y-SNPs) between two or more males can

accurately predict the degree of their patrilineal relationship, show how lineages evolved

over time, and predict when lineages arose and diverged (37-41). Specific Y-SNP mutations

on the Y-chromosome are also referred to as Y-DNA haplogroups and these define genetic

population groupings (42). For example, the Y-SNP M417 is a mutation that defines the

haplogroup R1a1a1, a major subclade (branch) of the haplogroup R1a (43, 44). The R1a-

M417 haplogroup is especially significant because it represents the progenitor of a major

expansion within the haplogroup R1a, and it is one of the main Y-DNA haplogroups

associated with the spread of Indo-European languages (45). Genetic genealogical studies

by Holton and Macdonald (2020), Stead (2023), Holton (2023), and DePew et al. (2024)

have identified Y-SNPs that occurred in a specific individual or a narrow lineal group of

patrilineal related individuals that lived within a known genealogical timeframe (46-49). A Y-

SNP that can be specifically designated to an individual is termed a SNP-Progenitor (SNP-

Progen) while Y-SNPs that can be identified as occurring in a lineal group of patrilineal

related individuals are known as Multigenerational-SNPs (Multigen-SNPs) (46-48). The

identification of these Y-SNPs is useful to genetic genealogists because they can confirm or

reject hypotheses based on ambiguous documented evidence. Furthermore, once these Y-

SNPs have been positively confirmed, they can be used to identify descendants that are not

fortunate enough to be able to prove their descent with documentational evidence.

This study aimed to analyse Y-SNP data from FTDNA's BigY700 tests to investigate whether

the Y-DNA testing of proposed well-documented living patrilineal descendants of William de

la HAYA II supports the genealogical consensus that his direct paternal lineage has survived

to the present. The Y-SNP data from testing the BigY700 allows genetic genealogists to

estimate a time to the most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) when two or more individuals

share a specific Y-SNP, but their common ancestor is unknown. The mutation rates provide a

date range for the occurrence of all Y-SNPs that are shared between two or more testers

and if the common ancestor between two or more matching testers is known, their shared Y-

SNPs can be assigned to specific individuals. Another aim is to identify SNP-Progens or

Multigen-SNPs associated to the Hay noble lineage so EPP events can be identified using Y-

DNA testing. Furthermore, the study aims to use the data for SNP-Progens or Multigen-

SNPs to help identify Hay males of direct paternal descent who cannot prove their lineage

due to gaps in the documentary records. The data from this study also have the potential to

provide evidence to help reach a reliable conclusion on the proposed Norman origins of

William de la HAYA I. Furthermore, the analysis of Y-DNA haplogroups found among Family

Tree DNA testers with the surname Hay (plus associated spelling variants: Hays, Haye,

Hayes, Hey and Haya) will be assessed to reach conclusions on the level of haplogroup

diversity. An analysis into Y-DNA haplogroup diversity will provide data to evaluate the

hypothesis made by Durie (2022) [20], who suggested that surnames in Scotland were

largely adopted for many reasons, and that a surname of noble origin does not mean an

individual is descended from the noble progenitors of that surname. Finally, this study will

provide further insight into Y-SNP mutation rates using the BigY700 test results of three well-

documented Hay patrilineal descendants who can trace their ancestral pedigree back to the

12th century.

Methodology

Holton and Macdonald (2020) highlight the significant challenges faced when researching

well-documented living descendants of medieval noble lineages (46). However, they

confirmed that there are many examples of individuals of various ancestries who have the

good fortune of being well documented, having extant lines of descent to the present day

(46). Research by Larmuseau et al. (2014), Stead (2023), and DePew et al (2024) also

demonstrates the existence of well-documented lineages back to the high to late Middle

Ages (c. 1000-1500 CE) (47, 49, 50).

Traditional genealogical documentary research

The methodology implemented in this study utilised a mixed disciplinary approach that

combined traditional genealogical research, genetic genealogical research and

archaeogenetic research methods. Holton and Macdonald (2020) demonstrated that

authoritative documentary sources can be used to identify living descendants of noble

lineages (46). Therefore, a range of publicly available authoritative documentation, primary

and secondary sources (Table 1) were used to identify three potential test takers with proven

patrilineal descent from William de la HAYA II, 1st of Erroll.

Table 1. Examples of the sources consulted to prove the ancestries of the three test

takers used for this study.

Document/source information	Access to document physically or online
Register of the Great Seal of Scotland.	Medieval and Early Modern Sources Online (MENSO). vols 1-3, or via Archive.org (search on Register of the Great Seal of Scotland or Registrum Magni Sigilli for volumes 2-7).
Vol. v. 1590-91 #1830. Rex confirmavit Willelmo Domino Hay de Yester.	Thomson, John Maitland (1984) The register of the Great Seal of Scotland. Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum. A.D. 1306-1424. New Edition. Vols. I-XI. Edinburgh: The Scottish Record Society. Vol. iii.
Registrum S. Marie de Newbotle, Vol 1. Confirmation of William de Haya, page 12-13. William de Haya, son of John de Haya, knight and Lord of Lochquerwerd.	Innes, Cosmo, ed. (1849) Registrum S. Marie de Neubotle. Vol. 1 (1140-1528). Edinburgh: Bannatyne Club. Medieval and Early Modern Sources Online (MENSO).
Exchequer Rolls of Scotland and Appendix, 1437-1487 p. 679. Sasine Johannis Hay Locherwart, Yester, Duncanlaw, Morhame, Ugstoun, Blankis1479.	Exchequer Rolls of Scotland and Appendix, 1437-1487. Medieval and Early Modern Sources Online (MENSO).
The Scots peerage – Sir John de Haya, page, 417. Abt 1238.	Paul, Sir James Balfour. (1911) The Scots peerage: founded on Wood's ed. Of Sir Robert Douglas's Peerage of Scotland. Vol VIII. Edinburgh: David Douglas. P. 417.
Hay of Yester Papers MSS.14401-14820 The 1st Marquess was known as Lord Yester from 1646 until he succeeded his father, the 1st Earl, in 1654. (ii) Midlothian: barony of Loquhariot (Borthwick), 1652-63 (f. 116).	National Library of Scotland catalogue: GB233/Ch.12446-12539 Yester Documents: Minor Estates 1541-1715. Ch.122446-62 Barony of Loquhariot (Borthwick), 1541-1673. GB233/MS.14402-14412 Correspondence: 1st Marquess of Tweeddale 1652-1696.
The Peerage – William de la Haya	The Peerage website - https://www.thepeerage.com/p27848.htm#i278473
Hay charters.	People of Medieval Scotland (POMS) https://poms.ac.uk/search/?index_type
Hay Births, Marriages, Deaths, Wills and Heraldry. E.g., Baptism of Alexander Hay of Mordington, 15/04/1731, Edinburgh. 685 / 1 170 / 498.	ScotlandsPeople https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Based on the outcome of the traditional genealogy research, it was hypothesised that all

three potential testers should share a Y-SNP dated to have occurred between 1000-1150 CE

because their genealogies suggest that they descend from William de la HAYA II, 1st of

Erroll. However, the genealogies of two of the potential testers suggested that they shared a

more recent ancestor (John HAY, 1st of Tweeddale, 1595-1653 CE) when compared to the

third tester; therefore, likely sharing at least one more Y-SNP in common that occurred

between 1150-1595 CE. Furthermore, it is important to highlight that the two well-

documented testers that descend from John HAY, 1st of Tweeddale can be confidently

documented back to Sir John HAY (1200-1262 CE) and he is hypothesised to be the

grandson of William de la HAYA II via his son Robert (8, 51).

To confirm that the well-documented individuals were the direct paternal descendants of the

noble Hay lineage of Scotland, Y-DNA testing was required to investigate whether the

individuals shared Y-SNPs that could be dated to around the time-period of their proposed

common noble Hay ancestor. The identified living descendants were invited to participate in

this study after the receipt of signed consent with the recruitment period staring on the 6th of

February 2024 and ending on the 7th of October 2024. Ethical approval for this research was

obtained from the University of Strathclyde's Ethics Committee, reference number:

UEC23/94. After signed consent was received, a non-invasive BigY700 test kit was posted

out to each participant for cheek cell sample collection using the cotton mouth swabs

provided in the test kit. Once received, each participant completed the DNA sample

collection and then posted the sample back to the FTDNA laboratory for sequencing. The

BigY700 test by Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) was the test of choice for this project for several

reasons (52). Firstly, FTDNA was chosen due to their large Y-haplotree, currently consisting

of 81,000 branches, 716,000 variants, and 566,000 SNP-tested users in their Y-DNA

database (53). Secondly, FTDNA has strict policies that ensure tester privacy and security of

data (54); they also provide a 'closed project' option for researchers that ensures a secure

platform to carry out data analysis.

Y-DNA testing strategy

This research opted to use FTDNA's BigY700 test which is a next-generation sequencing

(NGS) test that covers an approximate 23 Mb of the total 57.2 Mb of the GRCh38 (HG38)

reference Y-chromosome (less than 1% of the whole human genome) (55). The BigY700

targets all the Y-SNPs present in the SNP rich regions most relevant for genetic genealogical

research with up to 70 reads per position covered; however, any Y-SNP that returns a

minimum of 10 derived (positive) reads is reported (52). FTDNA's age estimates for SNPs

that feature within their Y-DNA phylogenetic tree are calculated using the methodology

developed by McDonald (2021) (56). McDonald's approach calculates coalescence ages

(times to most recent common ancestor, or TMRCAs) using a new, probabilistic statistical

model that includes Y-SNP, Y-STR and ancillary historical data (56). McDonald demonstrated

that this methodology provided highly accurate estimates by using the Y-DNA data of well-

documented direct patrilineal Royal Stewart testers (56).

In this study, the Y-SNP data of the three documented testers were compared against their

specific genealogies to identify SNP-Progens or Multigen-SNPs. FTDNA's age estimates for

specific Y-SNPs were accepted as the most accurate estimates since they were calculated

using McDonald's methodology (52, 56). The example in Figure 1 demonstrates how a SNP-

Progen and Multigen-SNPs are identified by combining the documented genealogical

information with the Y-SNP data of four fictitious testers. When two or more Y-DNA testers

have well-documented ancestry that triangulates back to a direct paternal ancestor living

during the medieval era, Multigen-SNPs and SNP-Progens can also be identified with a high

degree of confidence.

Fig 1. Diagram demonstrating how SNP-Progen and Multigen-SNPs are identified.

Figure 1 shows how three BigY700 testers are related to demonstrate how SNP-Progens

and Multigen-SNPs are identified. Tester of Lineage_1* is the 3rd cousins of Tester of

Lineage_2 via the same direct patrilineal line of descent, sharing the same 2nd great

grandfather. Tester of Lineage_1 is the 2nd cousin, once removed of Tester of Lineage_3 and

Tester of Lineage_3 is the uncle of Tester of Lineage_2. Since Tester of Lineage_1* is the

only individual from his immediate patrilineal line, the Y-SNP FT1001 cannot be assigned to

a specific individual; therefore, it is termed a Multigen-SNP as it could have occurred

between Tester of Lineage_1*, his father, grandfather or great grandfather. Tester of

Lineage_2 and Tester of Lineage_3 are more closely related, and they are derived (positive)

for the Y-SNP FT1002; however, no new Y-SNPs have occurred in the father of Tester of

Lineage_2 because Tester of Lineage_2 remains FT1002 which either occurred in his

grandfather of great grandfather (another example of a Multigen-SNP). Furthermore, Figure

1 shows that Tester of Lineage_3 can be identified as the SNP-Progen because he is the

brother of Tester of Lineage_2's father and Lineage_3 carry an additional Y-SNP called

FT1003; therefore, this Y-SNP must have occurred in Tester of Lineage_3, making him the

SNP-Progen for FT1003. Based on the information shown in Figure 1, everyone in the

phylogenetic tree will have their Y-SNP ancestral path written as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Y-SNP ancestral path for the individuals shown in Figure 1.

Individuals shown in Figure 1	Y-SNP ancestral path
Common Direct Paternal Ancestor to all three lineages	FT1000
Great Grandfather, Grandfather, Father and Tester of Lineage_1*	FT1000 > FT1001
Great Grandfather, Grandfather and Father of Tester of Lineage_2*	FT1000 > FT1002
Tester of Lineage_3* and his Son	FT1000 > FT1002 > FT1003

To investigate the degree of Y-DNA haplogroup diversity among individuals with the surname

Hay, this study utilised the Y-DNA data of 109 testers that is publicly available on the Hay

surname FTDNA project (57). In situations where a tester has not carried out any specific Y-

SNP testing and they have only tested Y-STR markers, FTDNA only provide a very general

Y-DNA haplogroup prediction. The STR data of the testers that had tested between 67-111

STR markers were inputted into the NEVGEN tool (n=29) (58) to predict a more refined Y-

DNA haplogroup as implemented by Zhabagin et al (2024) (59). For example, Tester:

398281 was only assigned R1a-M512 by FTDNA; however, NEVGEN was able to predict a

more refined Y-DNA haplogroup for tester using their 67 STR markers. NEVGEN accurately

predicted kit number: 398281 as being positive for R1a-YP287 (58), a SNP several

mutations further downstream of R1a-M512 as illustrated below:

R1a - M207 > M173 > M420 > M459 > M512 > M417 > CTS4385 > Y2894 > L664 >

FGC41399 > S2894 > YP287.

Once all the data were collated, testers were grouped based on the closest major Y-DNA

haplogroup they were associated with. For example, kit number: 398281 was grouped in the

R1a > L664 grouping.

Results

Y-DNA Haplogroup diversity among testers with the surname Hay (plus spelling

variants)

The first set of results demonstrate the Y-DNA haplogroup diversity observed among the

testers with the surname Hay (plus spelling variants) that are participating in the Hay FTDNA

project. Figure 2 shows that Y-DNA haplogroups R1a, R1b, I1, I2, J1 and Q were all

represented.

Fig 2. Y-DNA haplogroup diversity among testers with the surname Hay (plus

associated spelling variants) within the Hay FTDNA project.

The evidence also demonstrates significant diversity within specific haplogroups (e.g., R1a >

YP4141; R1a > L448 & R1a > L664) with haplogroup R1b proving to be the most diverse

haplogroup represented. The Y-DNA diversity observed in this study is similar to previous

research completed on Clan Forbes (47).

The Y-DNA results of the three well-documented noble Hay descendants

The BigY700 test results of the three well-documented noble Hay descendants showed that

they all shared the following Y-SNP ancestral path (see Table 3): R1a-M420 > YP4141 >

YP4132 > YP4169 > YP4208 > YP4131 > YP4138 > YP6500 > FTT161.

Table 3. Basic Y-SNP ancestral path and specific Y-SNP details

Y-SNP name	Location	Ancestral allele	Derived allele	FTDNA TMRCA estimate ranges (Earliest < Median > Latest; 95% probability)
FTT161	CP086569.2: 12101060	A	G	877 CE < **1081 CE** > 1251 CE
YP6500	CM000686.2: 7696598	C	G	687 CE < **930 CE** > 1131 CE
YP4138	CM000686.2: 6863798	G	T	582 CE < **824 CE** > 1027 CE
YP4131	CM000686.2: 2862540	A	G	129 BCE < **219 CE** > 513 CE
YP4208	CM000686.2: 19384185	C	A	3795 BCE < **2945 BCE** > 2218 BCE
YP4169	CM000686.2: 12489924	T	C	4193 BCE < **3291 BCE** > 2581 BCE
YP4132	CM000686.2: 2880609	C	G	5481 BCE < **4406 BCE** > 3483 BCE
YP4141	CM000686.2: 7404757	C	T	13078 BCE < **11025 BCE** > 9250 BCE
M420	CM000686.2: 21311315	T	A	17707 BCE < **15272 BCE** > 13137 BCE

Bonito et al (2021) suggested that the palindromic regions of the Y-chromosome are highly

prone to gene conversion events; therefore, the identification of SNPs may be complex when

performing short-read targeted NGS (60). Hallast et al (2023) identifies the four

heterochromatic subregions in the human Y-chromosome: the (peri-)centromeric region,

DYZ18, DYZ19 and Yq12 as highly repetitive (61); therefore, these regions are less suitable

for the identification of reliable Y-SNPs using NGS. Figure 3 is a map of the Y-chromosome

that identifies the positions of the Y-SNPs shown in Table 3. These Y-SNPs are located

within the non-recombining portion of the Y-chromosome (NRY), where Y-SNPs occur at a

relatively slow rate and without the instability caused by gene conversion, deletions, and

duplications. Furthermore, these Y-SNPs are not located in any of the regions that are

deemed unreliable for Y-SNP calling; therefore, these Y-SNPs are regarded to be highly

stable over generations, making them reliable for phylogenetic studies.

Fig 3. Y-Chromosome map adapted from Jobling and Tyler-Smith (2003) showing Y-

SNPs associated with the noble Hay lineage (62)

The sequences in Table 4 show the bases surrounding the Y-SNPs associated to the

ancestral path for the noble Hay lineage. It can be observed that each derived Y-SNP is

surrounded by non-repetitive sequences; therefore, increasing the likelihood that these Y-

SNPs are stable and phylogenetically relevant.

Table 4. Sequencing data of the bases surrounding the Y-SNPs identified in the Y-SNP

pathway for the Hay noble lineage

	Seventeen bases either side of the Y-SNP (No reverse reads shown)
Reference FTT161	G A A T A C A A T G T T A T G G A [A] T C C G A T T G A A C A G A A T G G A A T A C A A T G T T A T G G A [G] T C C G A T T G A A C A G A A T G
Reference YP6500	T C A T T T T T T A A A T G C C A [C] T C T T C A A A A T T A A C A A G T C A T T T T T T A A A T G C C A [G] T C T T C A A A A T T A A C A A G
Reference YP4138	G G C G G G G A A A C A G C A A A [G] A T G G G T G G T T G C T C C T T G G C G G G G A A A C A G C A A A [T] A T G G G T G G T T G C T C C T T
Reference YP4131	C G C T A G G T T A C T C T G C A [A] A G G T G G G C T T C T T G T T G C G C T A G G T T A C T C T G C A [G] A G G T G G G C T T C T T G T T G
Reference YP4208	G A G G A G T A T T T T A C T T T [C] A A T T A T G T T G T T G A T C T G A G G A G T A T T T T A C T T T [A] A A T T A T G T T G T T G A T C T
Reference YP4169	C A G G C A T G C T T T A T A G C [T] C C T T G T G G A G G C A A T T A C A G G C A T G C T T T A T A G C [C] C C T T G T G G A G G C A A T T A

Reference YP4132	G G A A G G T C A G A A A T G G C [C] C T T G C T G A T G C C A G C T G
	G G A A G G T C A G A A A T G G C [G] C T T G C T G A T G C C A G C T G
Reference YP4141	A T G T G T C G T A A G A G G G A [C] G C A G T G G G A G G T A A T T G
	A T G T G T C G T A A G A G G G A [T] G C A G T G G G A G G T A A T T G
Reference M420	T T C A T T G C T G G C C T C C A [T] T T A G A A A C C A A T G A A A A
	T T C A T T G C T G G C C T C C A [A] T T A G A A A C C A A T G A A A A

The first line in each row of Table 4 shows the 17 bases of sequence surrounding either side

of each Y-SNP found in the Y-SNP pathway for the Hay noble lineage. The sequences are in

the Genome Reference Consortium Human Build 38 (GRCh38) format. The 18th base in

each sequence is coloured brown and boxed using square brackets to indicate the location

of the specific SNP (e.g., FTT161 = [A] ancestral allele; [G] derived allele).

The Y-SNP FTT162 is phylogentically positioned downstream of FTT161 and it defines a

noble Hay branch that has a significant number of descendants; n=47 testers at the YFull

database (63). This Y-SNP is located in the highly repetitive heterochromatic region of the Y-

chromosome (see Figure 4). This region is regarded as having large portions of noncoding

DNA that is typically prone to mutations caused by replication slippage (64-66); therefore, Y-

SNPs occurring within this region of the Y-chromsome need to be treated with caution as

they may not be phylogenetically relevant (67).

Since FTT162 is located in a less stable region of the Y-chromosome, we analysed the

surrounding sequence either side of this SNP to assess its stability and reliability of being

phylogenetically relevant. Figure 4 highlights the repetitive sequences across a 600 bp

region with FTT162 in the middle of the sequence and annotated in yellow. The way that

FTT162 likely formed is by a change from the TGGAG repeat to TAGAG (TGGAG -->

TAGAG; G>A; annotated in red), and this terminated the TGGAG repeated sequence that

resulted in stabilising this section of sequence. After the TAGAG section had changed, the

resulting stability provided a unique background for the FTT162 SNP (A>T; annotated in

yellow) to occur. When FTT162 occurred, it changed the dynamics of the surrounding

repeats so that two out of five bases were different to the left and to the right of the repeat

units either side of FTT162. Therefore, these changes would have increased the stability at

FTT162, making it an unlikely place for the DNA polymerase to slip, thus, restricting any

conversion to either of the neighbouring repeats; TGGAG or TGGAA, respectively. For the

reason discussed above, we have no concerns on the stability and reliability of this Y-SNP.

Figure 4. Y-SNP FTT162 location: CP086569.2:27682309: A > T and surrounding

Sequence (68, 69)

The three well-documented Hay testers also match a significant number of testers (n=24/109

at the Hay FTDNA project) with the surname Hay (plus associated spelling variants) who

also tested positive for at least FTT161 (70). At this point, it is unclear whether YP6500 (plus

equivalent SNPs BY33394 / FT2017) are Y-SNPs specific to the Hay noble lineage or

whether they occurred in an ancestor that predates William de la HAYA, I of Normandy.

Furthermore, the Y-SNPs BY33394 and FT2017 are assumed to be equivalent to YP6500 as

it is unclear whether they appeared simultaneously in the evolutionary timeline, or whether

their occurrence was totally independent of each other. New data often changes the status of

assumed equivalent Y-SNPs by proving that they occurred independently of other Y-SNPs.

Therefore, it is never a guarantee that any Y-SNP is equivalent to other Y-SNPs. Once new

data provides enough evidence to show that assumed equivalent Y-SNPs did occur

independently, their position within the phylogenetic tree changes accordingly to represent

their correct chronological order. The results show that there are some non-Hay surnames

among the testers (n=12) who are positive for FTT161 and downstream SNPs, these non-

Hay surnames are likely the result of EPP taking place. The results strongly suggest that

FTT161 is a Y-SNP that defines the noble Hay lineage with the downstream Y-SNPs of

FTT161 identifying descent from William II de la HAYA, 1st of Erroll, (d. 1201). Most testers

with the surname Hay on the Hay FTDNA project (n=85/109) are not direct paternal

descendants of the Hay noble progenitor (70). Figure 5 shows the phylogenetic block-tree of

R1a-YP4138 which splits to form the subclades YP6500 (ancestor of the Hay noble lineage)

and three parallel subclades, CTS11317, BY190800 and BY234055, respectively. The

subclades CTS11317, BY190800 and BY234055 have several testers with surnames of

Norman origin (Manwarren/Manering, Pickering and Travers) (71), and several testers with

surnames of English origin. The non-Hay surnames associated to the parallel subclades of

YP6500 is expected since the age estimate for R1a > YP4138 is 582 < 800 > 1027 CE (95%

probability) (72); a timeframe generally accepted as being before the earliest known

adoption of surnames in Europe (73).

Fig 5. R1a > YP4138 Phylogenetic Block-Tree showing the Y-SNPs associated to the

descendants of the Hay noble progenitor YP6500.

Figure 6 was produced by combining the Y-SNP data with the ancestral pedigrees of the

three well-documented Hay testers.

Fig 6. Original Hay Noble phylogenetic tree using the pedigrees of the three well-

documented noble Hay descendants.

The phylogenetic tree identifies several Multigen-SNPs associated to the noble Hay lineage.

Testers HAY_1, HAY_2 and HAY_3 are the three well documented individuals who were

identified during the traditional genealogical research phase of the study. The other testers

that match the three well-documented Hay individuals can also be placed in approximate

positions within the Hay noble phylogenetic tree based on their Y-SNPs; however, further

documentational evidence or the testing of more well-documented descendants will be

required for a more accurate positioning. Three clear subclades that are phylogenetically

downstream of the Y-SNP FTT161 were identified in this study (BY199342, FTA7312 &

FTT162). The combined Y-SNP and ancestral documentation data suggests lines of descent

from three of the six sons of William II de la HAYA, 1st of Erroll. The Y-SNP BY199342 (plus

equivalents) that were found in tester HAY_1 can confidently be assigned to the

descendants of David de la HAYA, 2nd of Erroll (d. 1241 CE), first son of William II de la

HAYA, 1st of Erroll (d.1201 CE). However, it is uncertain whether BY199342 occurred in

David de la HAYA, 2nd of Erroll or in one of his immediate direct descendants. Furthermore,

HAY_2 and HAY_3 are negative for BY199342 (plus, equivalents) and positive for FTA7312

(plus equivalents) while likely descending from Robert de la HAYA of Erroll (the younger

brother of David de la HAYA, 2nd of Erroll). The Y-SNP data and the pedigrees of the well-

documented testers show a clear genetic divergence that was previously hypothesised.

Moreover, the results support the documentary evidence that suggests that HAY_1, HAY_2

and HAY_3 are descendant of William II de la HAYA, 1st of Erroll with a high degree of

certainty.

Analysis of the mutation rates observed among the well-documented Hay testers

The results in Table 5 suggest that the Y-SNP mutation rate observed in the Hay noble

lineage does not fit the standard average mutation rate proposed by McDonald, (2021);

however, the mutation rates do fall within the accepted mutation rate ranges. For example,

FTD73694 is dated to 1700 CE with a date ranging from 1428 to 1844 CE with 95%

probability; however, the TMRCA has been identified to 1595 CE with 100% confidence (56).

McDonald proposes that the standard molecular clock for Y-SNP mutation rate average is 83

years/Y-SNP mutation (56). The data from the three well-documented Hay testers show an

average mutation rate of 67.8 years/Y-SNP between 1140-1950 CE. The results for HAY_2

and HAY_3 also show an average mutation rate of 41.4 years/Y-SNP between 1140-1595

CE.

Table 5. Y-SNP analysis of the three well-document Hay testers.

Participant cohort	Total number of Y-SNPs downstream of FTT161	Number of generations since William HAY, 1st Earl of Erroll, b. 1140 CE	Average years per generation	Average Y-SNP mutation rate (yrs)
HAY_1	11	25	32.4	73.6

HAY_2	12	26	31.2	67.5
HAY_3	13	24	33.75	63.3
Total average from HAY_1, HAY_2 & HAY_3 bet. 1140 – 1950 CE	**12**	**25**	**32.45**	**67.8**
HAY_2 & HAY_3 bet. 1140-1595 CE	**11**	**16**	**28.4**	**41.4**

Additionally, only one private variant (unique Y-SNP) occurred in HAY_2, and only two

private variants occurred in HAY_3 since their common ancestor John HAY, 1st Earl of

Tweeddale (1595-1653). Figure 7 illustrates the average mutation rates observed between

HAY_2 and HAY_3.

Fig 7. Diagram showing average mutation rate of Y-SNPs for HAY_2 and HAY_3.

The observation of variation in mutation rates during specific time periods could explain a

proposed documented pedigree for an existing FTDNA tester with the surname HAY, who is

positive for the subclade FTT162 (referred to as HAY_4 in this report). The documentary

evidence for HAY_4 suggests possible descent from Robert de la HAYA of Erroll, younger

brother of David de la HAYA, 2nd of Erroll. This proposed ancestry would need to span

approximately two hundred years, totalling eight generations between William de la HAYA II,

1st of Erroll and Sir William HAY of Locherworth and Yester, Sheriff of Peebles, (1350-1421

CE) which can be seen in Figure 8.

Fig 8. Alternative Hay Noble phylogenetic tree when HAY-4's proposed pedigree is

considered.

If HAY_4's pedigree is correct, the eleven Y-SNPs shared between HAY_2 and HAY_3 would

have to have occurred during a period between 1350-1595 CE (245 years). In addition,

Hay_4's pedigree would require an average Y-SNP mutation rate of 1 x Y-SNP/22.3 years

with an average generation rate of 30.6 years (Figure 9).

Fig 9. Diagram showing the average Y-SNP mutation rate if HAY_4's proposed

pedigree is considered.

The average mutation rate of 22.3 years/Y-SNP that is associated to HAY_4's proposed

pedigree falls within the possible mutation rate range since FTT162 is estimated to have

occurred in 1107 CE, with a range between 898 CE and 1280 CE with 95% probability (74).

Therefore, this ancestral pedigree of HAY_4 is possible on a genetic level. However, there

are alternative ancestral pedigrees for HAY_4, but these cannot be documented back to

William II de la HAYA, 1st of Erroll, (d.1201) due to a lack of records. To validate HAY_4's

true line of descent back to William II de la HAYA, 1st of Erroll, the Y-DNA testing of a well-

documented direct paternal descendant of the four remaining sons of William II de la HAYA,

1st of Erroll (William, Malcolm, Thomas and John HAY I of Naughton) would be required.

Discussion

The Y-DNA haplogroup diversity observed among the Hay FTDNA project testers

demonstrate a lack of homogeneity among the FTDNA testers with the surname Hay (plus

associated spelling variants). Only 22% of the FTDNA testers with the surname Hay

descend from a Hay nobleman, defined by the Y-SNPs YP6500 and FTT161 (plus,

subclades). A similar percentage of Y-DNA haplogroup diversity was also observed in a Clan

Forbes genetic study where Stead (2023) reported 27% of FTDNA testers within the Clan

Forbes project were shown to be direct paternal descendants of the noble lineage (47).

Furthermore, the results also support the hypothesis made by Durie (2022) who suggested

that surnames in Scotland were largely adopted for many reasons, and that a surname of

noble origin does not mean an individual is descended from the noble progenitors of that

surname (23). More research needs to be conducted on other surnames associated to

Scottish nobility for comparison to this study and the Clan Forbes genetic study (47). With

further data, more specific questions can be asked; for example, are there specific historical

events that facilitated surname changes, and can this be evident in Y-DNA data?

The Y-SNP YP4138, plus equivalents, are directly upstream of YP6500 in the phylogenetic

tree. Subclades of YP4138 are found among several testers with the Norman-in-origin

surnames Manwarren, Pickering and Travers. therefore, strongly supporting the Norman

origins of YP4138 and its subclades. The age estimate for YP4138 is 582 < 800 > 1027 CE

(95% probability) (72), therefore, also aligning with the Norman origin hypothesis. Some

testers with the surname Travers have well-documented ancestry from the Travers noble

lineage of Horton, Cheshire (75) and Cork, Ireland (76). Although the Travers lineage of

Horton and Cork can only be confidently documented back to the mid-15th century, they are

probably descended from the Norman ancestor of Ralph Travers of Berney, c. 1197 (75, 76).

Further testing of well-documented individuals with surnames of Norman origin that match

the noble Hay and Travers testers could provide important Y-SNP data to help shed further

light on their ancestral connections.

The research conducted in this study has provided strong evidence that the Multigen-SNPs

YP6500 (plus equivalents) and FTT161 are key Y-SNPs that identify descent from the Hay

noble lineage. Furthermore, two subclades of FTT161 (BY199342 & FTA7312) are Multigen-

SNPs that indicate direct paternal descent from David de la HAYA, 2nd of Erroll and his

younger brother Robert de la HAYA of Erroll. Any individual that matches these key Y-SNPs

can be confirmed as a direct paternal descendent of the Hay noble lineage with a high

degree of confidence, even if documentary evidence is absent. Furthermore, the Y-SNP data

can also provide more specific ancestral designations (e.g., descent from David de la HAYA,

2nd of Erroll or his younger brother Robert). This dataset will become more refined when

additional well-documented Hay testers complete BigY700 testing, leading to more

Multigen_SNPs being assigned to specific Hay noblemen, and potentially identifying specific

SNP-Progens. Invariant mutation rates across the human Y-chromosome have generally

been accepted among researchers such as Xue et al, (2009), Helgason et al, (2015) and

Kutanan et al, (2019) (77-79). The consensus among these authors were that the Y-SNP

mutation rate in human Y lineages remained homogeneous; however, this was not

supported by the research conducted by Ding et al, (2021) (80). Ding et al, (2021) suggests

variable mutation rates across the human Y-chromosome haplogroups; however, it is not

clear whether this heterogeneity is caused by interhaplogroup mutation rate variation (80).

The Y-SNP data in this study supports the theory of variable mutation rates across the

human Y-chromosome haplogroups (mean Y-SNP mutation rate of 67.8 years/SNP as

opposed to the standard 83 years/SNP rate) (56).

This study is the first to observe the Y-SNP mutation rates of well-documented testers with

ancestry tracing back to a common ancestor living in the 12th century. Although the data

clearly demonstrate varying mutations rates during different time periods, it is unclear what

causes this phenomenon. One explanation for this phenomenon could be that greater

numbers of male offspring were born during the period where more Y-SNPs mutations are

being observed. Furthermore, factors such as higher than average conception age of the Y-

SNP progenitors could result in more Y-SNPs occurring, limitations with NGS, and specific

haplogroup genetic mechanisms could also be at play.

The technological and methodological advances made by the telomere-to-telomere (T2T)

consortium has already had a huge impact on identifying new Y-SNPs that were not reported

with NGS technology (81). Although the BigY700 has identified several T2T Y-SNPs (e.g.,

FTT161 and FTT162) within the noble Hay phylogenetic tree (82), these Y-SNPs did not get

recognised until T2T research was made available to researchers. Therefore, it is

recommended that several noble Hay testers are eventually sequenced using the longread

sequencing methodology implemented by the T2T consortium as the current research

suggests that a higher resolution of the Y-chromosome can be achieved (81, 83, 84).

Furthermore, longread sequencing will likely develop the noble Hay phylogenetic tree by

identifying new Y-SNPs, resulting in more accurate Y-SNP dating.

To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first to suggest variation in Y-SNP mutation

rates using well-documented testers with proven pedigrees dating back to the 12th century.

To explore patterns in the variation of average Y-SNP mutation rates further, investigations

into a wider range of well-documented lineages is recommended for future research. If

similar variation of average Y-SNP mutation rates can be observed in other well-documented

lineages, further research could focus on investigating possible causes for such variation,

and the potential implications on Y-SNP dating. The dating estimates for Y-SNPs are very

ambiguous due to the very large date ranges currently available. However, the identification

of Multigen-SNPs and SNP-Progens provides far more precise dating of Y-SNPs, but the

methodology is limited to well-documented lineages that can be traced back to the high

Middle Ages era. Those lineages of noble descent are the only realistic candidates that can

be reliably investigated to identify Multigen-SNPs and SNP-Progens back to the medieval

era. Further limitations occur when a noble lineage has died out or researchers fail to recruit

a well-documented individual for Y-DNA testing. Furthermore, investigating other noble

lineages will provide more comparative data to permit conclusions on whether Y-DNA

haplogroup diversity can be observed in other surnames associated to nobility. Y-DNA

haplogroup diversity is likely facilitated by several mechanisms; however, specific historical

events could be a key factor that facilitate the adoption of certain surnames. The impact of

wars and migrations could be two key facilitators to explore in future research.

Conclusions

The identification of Multigen-SNPs and SNP-Progens are of huge value to genealogical

researchers. As demonstrated in this research and in other studies, Y-DNA testing has been

proven to bridge significant gaps that exist in the documentary evidence when researching

ancestral pedigrees (46-49). Furthermore, direct paternal descent that is proven by

documentation is never a guarantee of true descent due to the probability of EPP taking

place. In reverse, not having a noble surname does not mean that an individual is not a

direct paternal descendant of a noble lineage. The Hay testers had genetic matches with 24

individuals who have the surname Hay (plus associated spelling variants) and 12 individuals

who did not have the surname Hay. Our genetic data proves that the 12 non-Hay testers are

descendants of a noble Hay ancestor, and a surname change has occurred at some point in

their ancestry, likely the result of an illegitimate conception sometime in the past. It is likely

that several of the testers with the surname Hay are descended from a younger son of a

noble lineage and these lineages eventually disappeared from the records as their

descendants were landless. Research that focuses on Multigen-SNPs and SNP-Progen

identification adds another dimension for validating pedigrees with a high degree of certainty.

Furthermore, this type of research provides reliable data that can be used by researchers to

challenge poorly researched pedigrees that make erroneous conclusions.

By comparing the Y-SNPs and ancestries of the three well-documented Hay noble

descendants, we have managed to confidently identify several Multigen-SNPs associated to

the noble Hay lineage. The genetic data for this study also provides further evidence that the

Hay noble lineage originated in Normandy as they share the Y-SNP R1a-YP4138 with

several individuals who have a surname of Norman origin. One specific tester that matches

the Hay noble lineage prior to the birth of the noble Hay progenitor is proven to be a well-

documented descendant of the noble Travers of Horton lineage. This research demonstrates

that significant Y-DNA haplogroup diversity exists among FTDNA testers with the surname

Hay. The Y-DNA haplogroup diversity observed in this study is strong evidence that supports

Durie (2022) who suggested that most men with a surname associated to nobility will not be

a direct paternal descendant of the noble progenitor (23).

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803

FASTA ▾

ℹ Showing 601 bp region from base 27682000 to 27682600.

Homo sapiens isolate NA24385 chromosome Y

GenBank: CP086569.2

GenBank   Graphics

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>CP086569.2:27682000-27682600 Homo sapiens isolate NA24385 chromosome Y
GAGTGCGGTGGAATGGAATGGAATGGCATCAAATCGCATGGTAATGAATCAAATGGAATCAAATGGAATG
AAATAATGGAATCGAAGGCAAACGAATGGAATCGAATTGCACTGATTCTACTGACTTCGAACAAAATGAA
ATGAAATGCGGTGAAGTGGAGTGGAGTGGAATGTATTAGGGTGGAATGGAATTGAATGGTGTGGAGTGGA
GTGGAGTGTCCAGGAGTGGAATGGGAAGAAATGGAATTGAACGGAGTGGAGTGGAGTGGAATGGAGGGTA
ATGGAATGGAGTGGAGTGGAGTAGAGTGGAATGGGTTGGAGTGGAATGCAGAGGACAGGAGTGGA
GTGTGGTGGACTGGAGTGGAGTGGAGTGGAGTGAAGTGGATTGGATTGAAATAGAGCGGAGCAGAGTGGA
ATGCAATTGAATCACATGGTACTGAATCAAATCGAATGGAATTAAATCGAATGAAAAAACGGAATCAAAA
GCAAACGAATGGAGTCAAACCCACATTGGTTAGACTGATATCGAATAATATCAAAAGAAATGTGGTGAAGT
GGAGTGGAGTGTAATGAAATGGGGTGGAATGAAATTGAATG
```

FTT162 at CP086569.2:27682309 A>T

TGGAG(repeat) → TAGAG (ref) → TAGTG (FTT162)

William de la HAYA I of Normandy, d. 1170, m. Julianne de SOULIS

YP6500
(BY33394
FT2017) >

William de la HAYA II, 1st of Erroll, (Butler), d. 1201. m. Eve

FTT161

BY199342 (FT1029 / FT1231 / FTB44426 / Y163182)

David de la HAYA, 2nd of Erroll, d. 1241

Sir William HAY, 1st of Leys

5 more Leys generations

Peter Hay 1st of Megginch

3 more generations of HAYs of Megginch

Peter HAY of land in Forfar

Francis HAY, (d. 1654)

George HAY of Balhousie, (d. 1672)

Thomas HAY, 7th Earl of Kinnoull, (1660-1719)

George Henry HAY, 8th Earl of Kinnoull, (1689-1758)

Rev. Hon. Robert HAY-DRUMMOND, (1711-1776)

10th Earl of Kinnoull, (1751-1804) to 13th Earl of Kinnoull, (1855-1903)

Edmund. A. R. G. HAY-DRUMMOND, Viscount Dupplin, (1879-1903

Undisclosed HAY

Undisclosed HAY

HAY_1

FTA7312 (A18253 / FTA6770 / FTD11892) >
FTD73694 (FTD74167 / FTD75144 /
FTD75652 / FTD87243 / FTD87411 / Z31551)

Robert de la HAYA of Erroll

Sir John HAY, 1st of Locherworth

5 more generations of HAYs of Locherworth

Sir William HAY of Locherworth & Yester, (1350-1421)

Sir David HAY of Locherwart & Yester, (d.1478)

John HAY, 1st Lord of Yester, (d. 1508)

5 more generations of Lord HAYs of Yester

John HAY, 1st Earl of Tweeddale, (1595-1653)

John HAY, 1st Marq of Tweeddale, (b. 1625)

John HAY, 2nd Marq of Tweeddale, (1645-1713)

B.- Gen. Lord William HAY, (d. 1723)

John HAY, (d. 1765)

George HAY, 7th Marq of Tweeddale, (1753-1804)

Gen. Lord James HAY, (1788-1862)

3 x Undisclosed HAY

HAY_2

Hon. William Hay, (1649-1726)

Alex HAY of Drumelzier, (d. 1789)

Robert HAY, (d. 1807)

William HAY, (d. 1876)

Gen. Alex C. HAY, (1829-1893)

Undisclosed HAY

Undisclosed HAY

HAY_3

All possible progenitors of FTT162

William HAY of Erroll

Robert HAY

William HAY

Malcolm HAY of Erroll

Duncan HAY

John HAY I of Naughton, d. (1266)

Peter HAY of Naughton

John HAY II of Naughton

Thomas HAY of Erroll

Y-SNP Information

SNPs in brackets are equivalent to the SNP that features in **bold** beforehand

YP6500 (Plus equivalent SNPs) estimated occurrence 697 < 938 > 1137 CE

FTT161 estimated occurrence 882 < 1086 > 1255 CE

BY199342 (Plus equivalent SNPs) 1422 < 1601 > 1735 CE

FTA7312 (Plus equivalent SNPs) 947< 1277 > 1522 CE

FTD73694 (Plus equivalent SNPs) 1432 < 1680 > 1845 CE

FTT162 ((Plus equivalent SNPs) 906 < 1115 > 1287 CE

All date estimates with 95% confidence.

| 1140 CE | > | 1350 CE | > | 1640 CE | > | 1840 CE | > | 1950 CE |

FTA7312 (A18253 / FTA6770 / FTD11892) > **FTD73694** (FTD74167 / FTD75144 / FTD75652 / FTD87243 / FTD87411/ Z31551)

HAY_2 then has only 1 Y-SNP mutation

HAY_3 then has only 2 Y-SNP mutations

11 Y-SNP mutations in 455 years (16 generations @ 28.4 years/generation) Y-SNP mutation rate @ 41.4 years/Y-SNP

HAY_2 Y-SNP mutation rate @ 355 years/Y-SNP

HAY_3 Y-SNP mutation rate @ 178 years/Y-SNP

William de la HAYA I of Normandy, d. 1170, m. Julianne de SOULIS

William II de la HAYA, 1st of Erroll (d. 1201 CE)

Robert de la HAYA of Erroll

Sir John HAY, 1st of Locherworth

5 Generations HAYs of Locherworth

Sir William HAY of Locherworth and Yester, Sheriff of Peebles (1350-1421)

David de la HAYA, 2nd of Erroll

Sir William HAY, 1st of Leys

4 Generations of HAY of Leys

Edmund HAY 6th of Leys

Peter HAY 1st of Megginch plus 3 Generations

Peter HAY of land in Forfar

Francis HAY, (d. 1654)

George HAY of Balhousie, (d. 1672)

Thomas HAY, 7th Earl of Kinnoull, (1660-1719)

George Henry HAY, 8th Earl of Kinnoull, (1689-1758)

Rev. Hon. Robert HAY-DRUMMOND, (1711-1776)

R A HAY-DRUMMOND, 10th Earl of Kinnoull, (b.1751)

T R HAY-DRUMMOND, 11th Earl of Kinnoull, (b. 1785)

George HAY-DRUMMOND, 12th Earl of Kinnoull, (b. 1827)

HAY 1

Sir David HAY of Locherwart and Yester, (d.1478)

John Hay, 1st Lord HAY of Yester, (d. 1508) plus 5 Generations

John HAY, 1st Earl of Tweeddale, (1595-1653)

John HAY, 1st Marq of Tweeddale, (b. 1625)

John HAY, 2nd Marquess of Tweeddale, (1645-1713)

Brig.-Gen. Lord William HAY, (b. after 1668-1723)

John HAY, (d. 1765)

George HAY, 7th Marquess of Tweeddale, (1753-1804)

HAY_2

Hon. William HAY, (1649-1726)

Alex HAY of Drumelzier, (d. 1789)

Robert HAY, (1731-1807)

William HAY, (1788-1876)

Gen. Alexander C HAY, (1829-1893)

HAY_3

Sir Edmund HAY of Linoleum & Talla

William HAY 2nd of Talla and then 2 Generations

Sir John HAY of Barra and Lands

Thomas HAY of Alderson and Hermiston

Alex HAY of Huntingdon, (b. 1675)

Thomas HAY of Huntingdon, (d. 8 Oct 1755)

Alex HAY of Mordington, (1731-1788)

Charles HAY

Charles HAY

HAY 4

| 1140 CE | > | 1350 CE | > | 1640 CE | > | 1840 CE | > | 1950 CE |

FTA7312 (A18253 / FTA6770 / FTD11892) > **FTD73694** (FTD74167 /FTD75144 / FTD75652 / FTD87243 / FTD87411 / Z31551)

HAY_2 then has only 1 Y-SNP mutation

HAY_3 then has only 2 Y-SNP mutations

11 Y-SNP mutations in 245 years (8 generations @ 30.6 years/generation) Y-SNP mutation rate @ 22.3 years/Y-SNP

HAY_2 Y-SNP mutation rate @ 355 years/Y-SNP

HAY_3 Y-SNP mutation rate @ 178 years/Y-SNP

Hay FTDNA project Y-DNA haplogroup diversity

Number of testers = 109

22% YP4141
6% L448
6% L664
14% L21
12% U106
10% U152
6% DF27
8% R1b Other
8%
6%
1%
1%

Legend: YP4141 · L448 · L664 · L21 · U106 · U152 · DF27 · Other R1b · I1a · I2 · J1 · Q

Haplogroup R1a

Haplogroup R1b