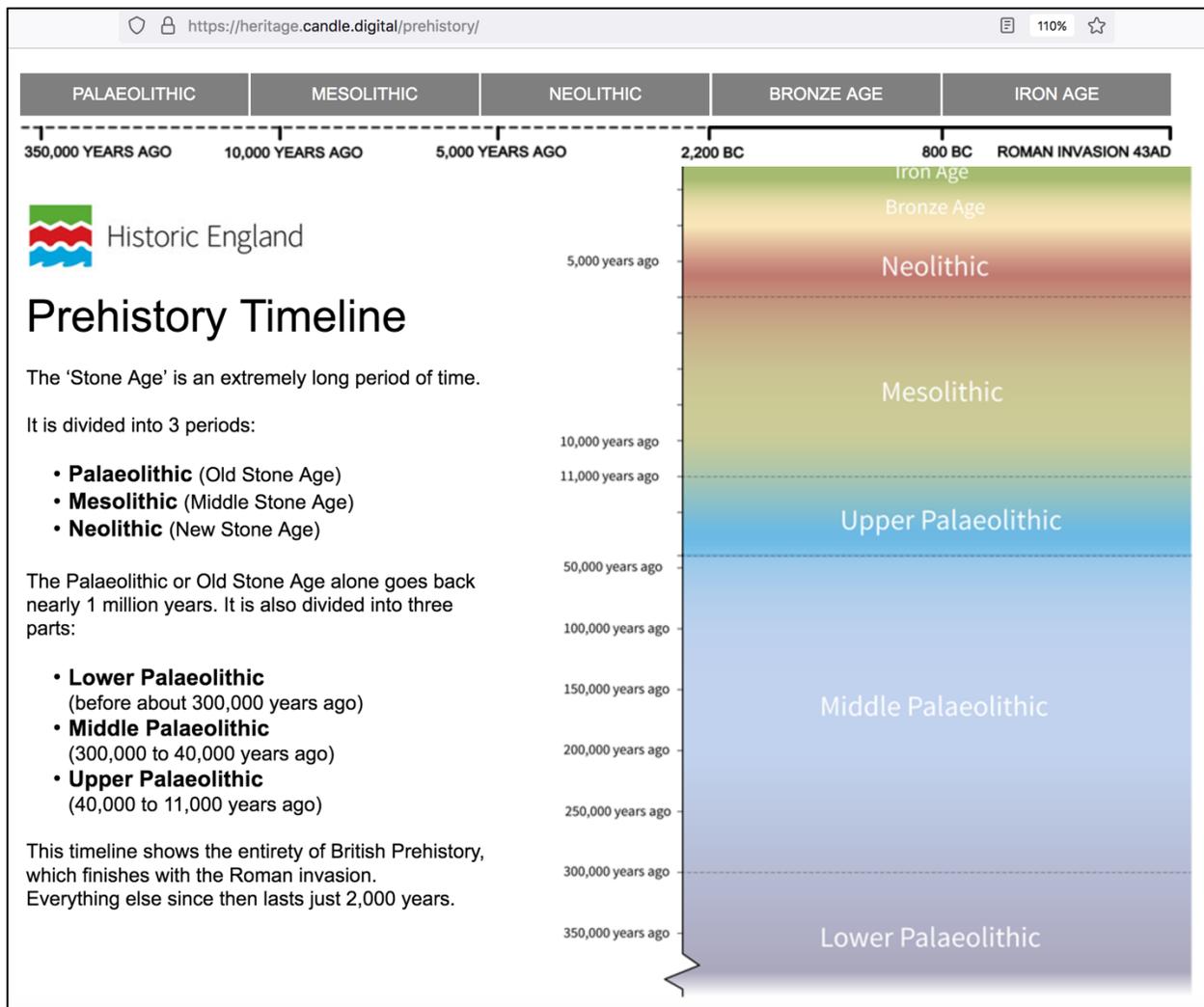


Dear Maxwells and Associated Families folk,

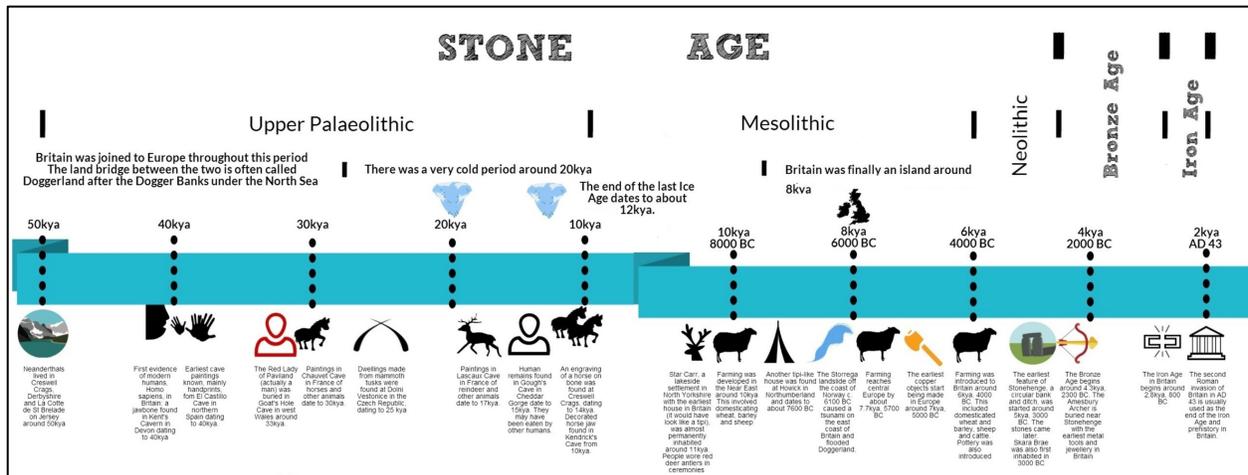
I have been sending out information on the “group 6” Maxwells from Dr. Don Maxwell’s website <http://www.maxwell-dna.com/results/overview/test-results.htm> and neglecting other groups. My apologies for that! The Maxwell DNA group seems to have two main haplogroups—one is R1b and the other is I.

I appreciate Kip Maxwell for asking me if I had any additional information on the men in group I. I’ve done some work on the “group 14” men so far, men that appear to be Haplogroup I-L161 (also known as L161.1). The following is copied directly from https://www.eupedia.com/europe/Haplogroup_I2_Y-DNA.shtml

“I2 (M438/P215/S31) is thought to have originated during the Late Paleolithic, around the time of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), which lasted approximately from 26,500 to 19,000 years ago. I2 probably appeared in western Europe, although its exact region of origin cannot be determined since Paleolithic Europeans were nomadic hunter-gatherers.”



I found the above graphic on the website <https://heritage.candle.digital/prehistory/> - it provides a nice overview of what is called prehistory; there is a second one on the following page (if you go to the link, you can zoom in on the smaller text):



<https://schoolsprehistory.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/timeline-starting-40kya1.jpg>

Continuing to copy directly from https://www.eupedia.com/europe/Haplogroup_I2_Y-DNA.shtml

"Haplogroup I2a1b-L161.1

"Commonly known in genetic genealogy circles as **I2-M423-Isles**, L161.1 is found at highest frequencies in western Ireland (5-10%) and the Scottish Highlands (1-5%), but is also found at low frequencies (> 1%) throughout Central and Western Europe, from Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus to the British Isles, and from Scandinavia to north-western Spain. It has also been found in Albania, northern Greece, Bulgaria and Romania.

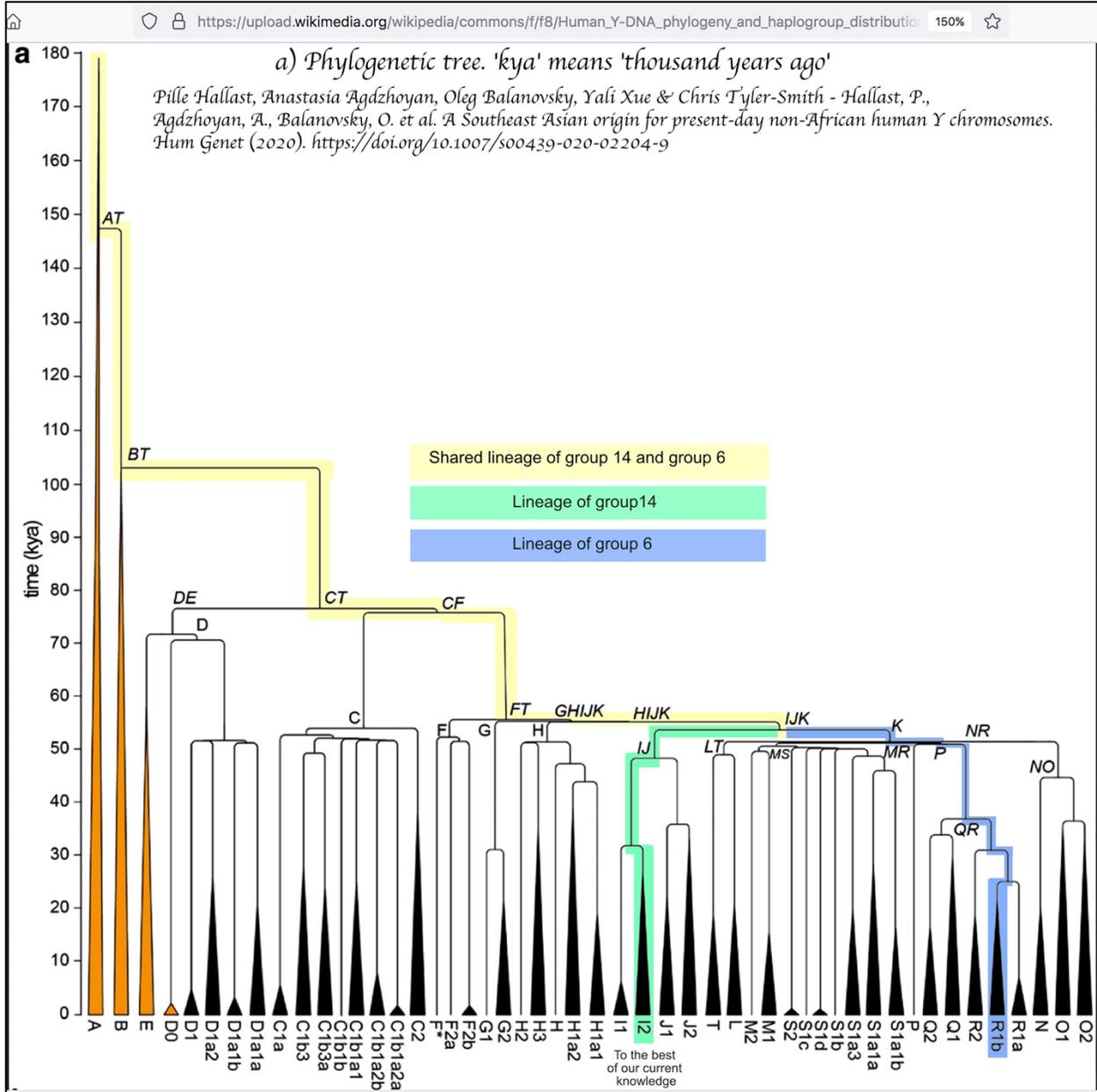
"The oldest known I2a1b-L161.1 individuals are the 8,000 year-old Loschbour man from Mesolithic Luxembourg, and a 7,800 year-old man from Motala in southern Sweden. I2a1b-L161.1 was probably scattered over most of Europe during the late Glacial and immediate postglacial periods, and in all likelihood integrated Neolithic society like all other Mesolithic lineages. I2a1b-L161.1 was very possibly one of the main Neolithic lineages in the British Isles during the Megalithic period, and would therefore have been among the men who built Stonehenge, Knowth, Newgrange and other great Megalithic sites. Its low frequency today and its confinement to the north-western and south-eastern fringes of Europe is indubitably the result of the numerous waves of Indo-European migrations over the last 5,000 years. The Proto-Celtic haplogroup R1b-L21 is now known to have arrived in Ireland around 2000 BCE (see Cassidy et al. 2015), only a few centuries after R1b first arrived in Central Europe. The transition was rapid, with R1b tribes overwhelming the Neolithic population of the British Isles in only a few centuries and pushing them further west and north, where L161.1 survives today."

I'm including more of what I've found in the following part of this document. We do need to have some additional targeted testing of the men who are "I"—several of the "I" men have joined the I-L161(Isles) group as well as the Maxwell group, which is a great idea—there may be men there that are closer matches.

Haplogroups "I" and "R" split off from one another more than 50,000 years ago. These two haplogroups lived in similar places in the British Isles, and sorting out these two main branches in the human tree is a fascinating search.

Maxwell DNA Project Group 6 and Maxwell DNA Project Group 14 Comparisons

Note that the charts showing the various branches are not completely up-to-date but are accurate enough to show the different branching of the two groups.



The information to date on the Maxwell-DNA project page on Group 14:

Group 14		These are MAXWELLS of ORANGE, Essex Co, New Jersey			Note: these are I haplogroup	
65943		25	see also below father of 42164		Thomas Maxwell abt.1840 Ireland	Ireland
42164		111	MATCHES NOBODY in FTDNA database at 111 (including 166601): has a la carte SNPs;64/67 to 832827; 63/67 BUT NO MATCH at 111 to 166601: appears to be false match by convergence	Haplogroup I=L161	Thomas Maxwell abt. 1840 Ireland; 63/67 to 166601	Ireland
New group or subgroup pending						
913767		25 new sept 2019	see reported lineage appears incorrect links: is 25/25 to 65943 & son 42164; -2 and -3 GD to others in Grp 14	NEEDS MORE MARKERS	Verify links mid 1800s to Samuel c1688 Boston	James Jackson Maxwell bc1828 NY died 1898 Rock, Wisconsin married Hnnah Hitchcock- further research in progress
832827	new ancestry from grp coordinator (May 2020)	67(new may2020)	64/67 to 42164 and 60/67 to 166601; cousin to 166601	Need more details	John Joseph Maxwell, b. ca. 1817-1829 Ire > Texas by 1846	63/67 to 42164 see below
166601 (need ancestors from donor)	<<<<<need ancestry	111	NEEDS ANCESTRY LINEAGE to hyperlink to kit ; 104/111 to 832827 and 107/111 to 42164	EXACT 67/67 to nonMAXWELL surname; reports ?cousin to 832827	UNABLE TO make recommendations using FTDNA database since NO ACCESS granted	John Joseph Maxwell, b. ca. 1817-1829 Ire > Texas by 1846 ; 63/67 to 42164 ; UNABLE to UPDATE DETAILS

A section of the above chart in order to read it more clearly (notes by Dr. Don Maxwell):

Group 14		These are MAXWELLS of ORANGE, Essex Co, New Jersey		
65943		25	see also below father of 42164	
42164		111	MATCHES NOBODY in FTDNA database at 111 (including 166601): has a la carte SNPs;64/67 to 832827; 63/67 BUT NO MATCH at 111 to 166601: appears to be false match by convergence	Haplogroup I=L161
New group or subgroup pending				
913767		25 new sept 2019	see reported lineage appears incorrect links: is 25/25 to 65943 & son 42164; -2 and -3 GD to others in Grp 14	NEEDS MORE MARKERS
832827	new ancestry from grp coordinator (May 2020)	67(new may2020)	64/67 to 42164 and 60/67 to 166601; cousin to 166601	Need more details
166601 (need ancestors from donor)	<<<<<need ancestry	111	NEEDS ANCESTRY LINEAGE to hyperlink to kit ; 104/111 to 832827 and 107/111 to 42164	EXACT 67/67 to nonMAXWELL surname; reports ?cousin to 832827

There appears to be additional Maxwells in the I-L161 (Isles) project FTDNA group (I am assuming the number "17" may be indicating that there are 17 Maxwells in the group already, although I have not been able to find them in the I-L161 Y DNA results):

I-L161 (I2a-Isles) - Surnames | F.X +

https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/i-2a-l161/surnames

870 Maxwell 17

However, joining may lead to finding out additional information.

Join the I-L161 (Isles) Project

Website:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/i-2a-l161>

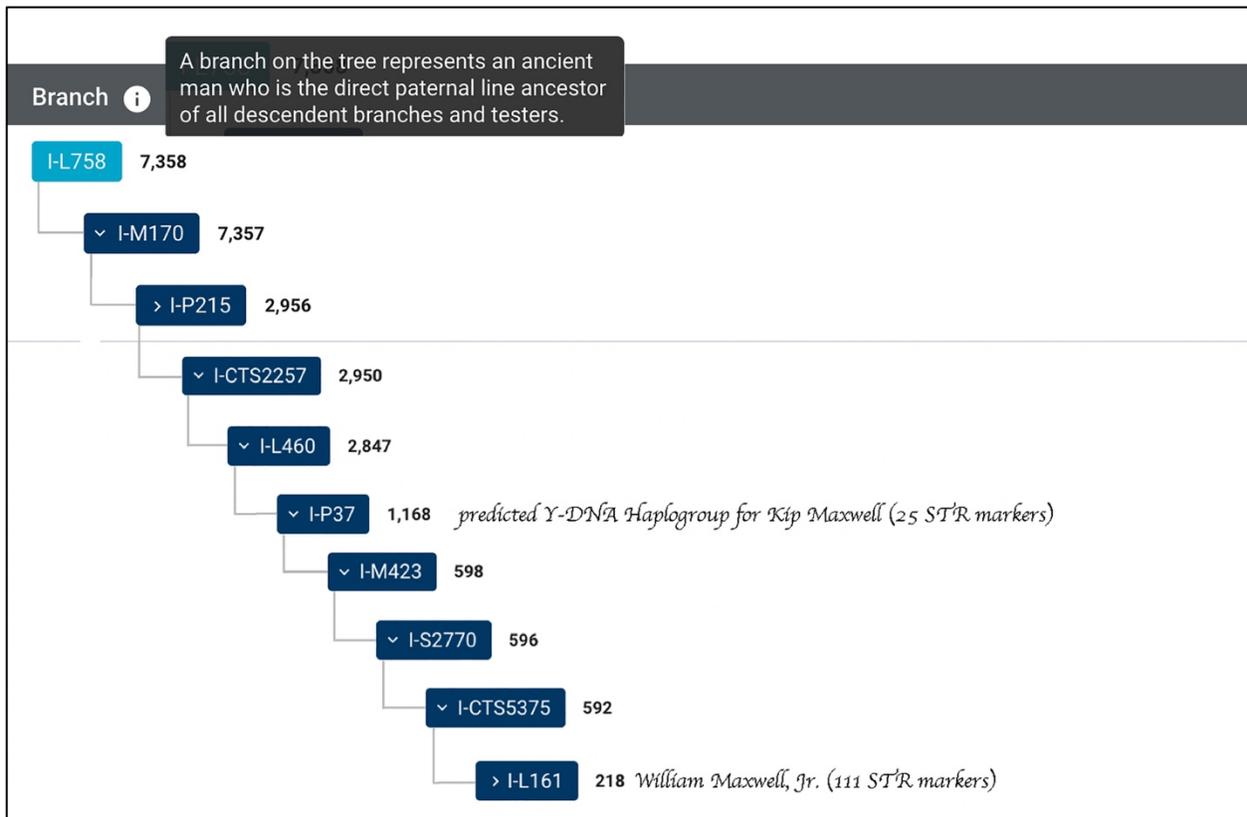
Description:

If you have confirmed SNP L161+ or an STR-haplotype (i.e. L161 shows up in your Y-DNA matches list) that points to it and you want to know more about your subgroup, you're very welcome to join!

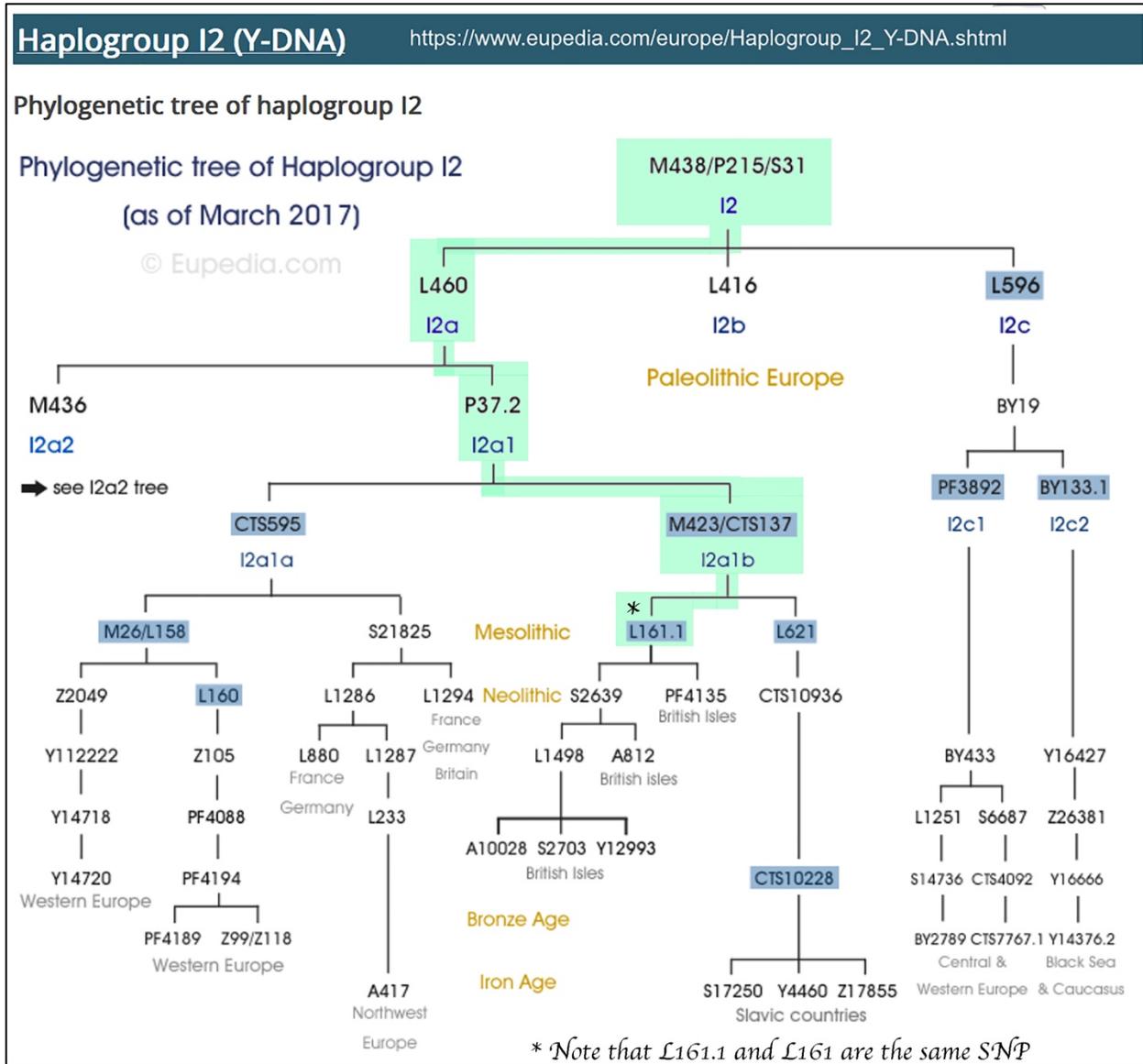
Surnames in Project:

I-L161 shows up on 913767's match list, so joining this project in addition to the Maxwell Project would be a good idea for all of the Maxwells in Group 14 (and for any of their matches who have surnames other than Maxwell).

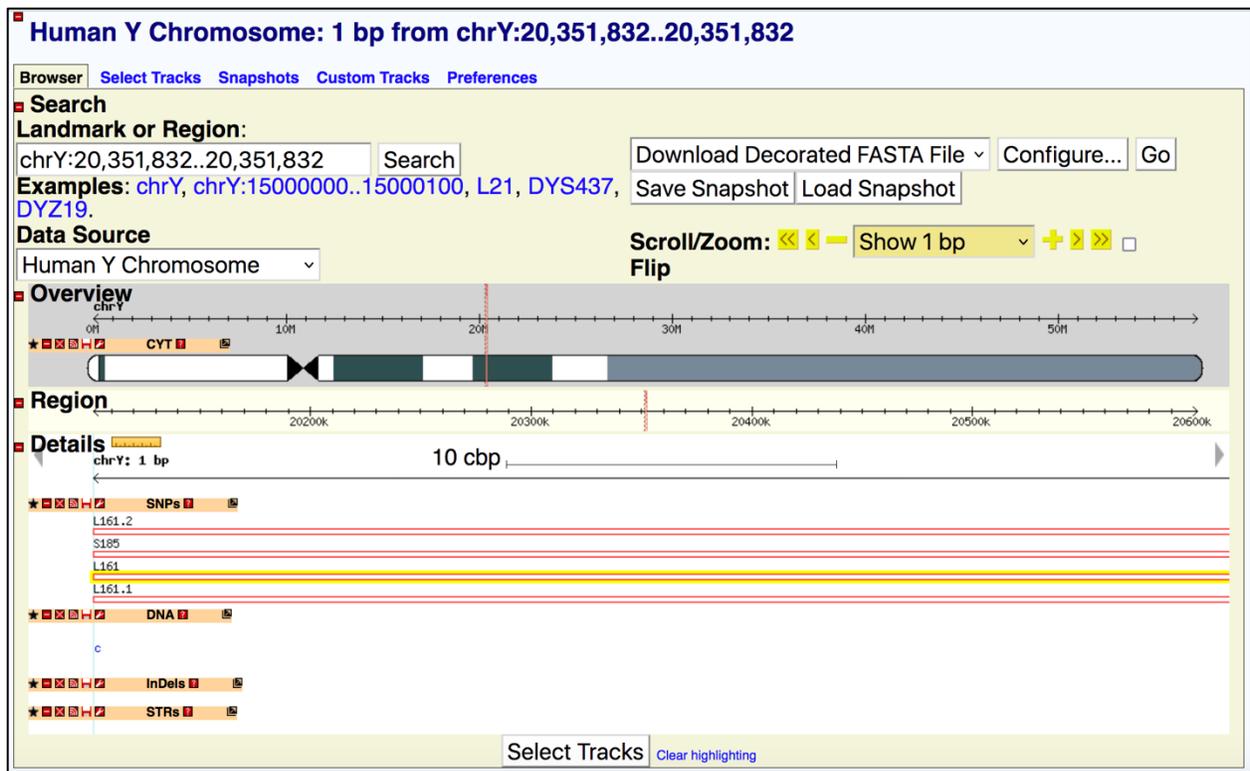
Two of the Group 14 men in the Maxwell-DNA Project are listed on the chart below (excerpted from the FTDNA Public Haplotree); the chart shows the main branches that lead down to I-L161:



This chart shows these branches in a different format:



Note that the Eupedia chart above lists L161.1 instead of L161. I checked on ybrowse.org (<https://ybrowse.org/gb2/gbrowse/chrY/?name=chrY%3A12632001..12632001>) and L161.1 and L161 are located at the same SNP position (SNPs with more than one name are not at all uncommon):



The I-L161 SNP is located at position number 20,351,832 on the Y chromosome and has been alternately named L161.2, S185, L161, and L161.1 (you can see these numbers above the red strips in the screen capture photo above).

More information can be found on the following two sites.

I would recommend looking at Joe Flood's posting at <http://y-haplogroup.blogspot.com/2019/> as it has some very helpful information. I am familiar with his name as someone who is active with FTDNA groups.

The Driscoll surname project also has some interesting information at <http://driscoll.dnagen.org/driscollgenes/I-P370Overview.htm> This website also has some interesting links. I am unfamiliar with the authors so I cannot attest to their accuracy but at least on first glance what they have put together looks interesting!

I recommend joining the I-L161 (Isles) project (instructions on the following page). I've contacted the group administrator to ask about the "17 Maxwells" in the project but have not heard anything back. Looking through the list of Maxwell members to that group, I actually see only three, and they are all members of the Maxwell DNA project. I'm still hoping to hear back, and I will let people know if I hear anything.

Here are the instructions on how to join the group if you are in group 14 in the Maxwell DNA project and appear to be L161 have not done so already:

Because the men of Group 14 are a match to a kit that is listed as L161, you should all be eligible to join the I-L161 (Isles) project. To join, go to your FTDNA account and find the box on the right hand side that says, "Join a Project" and click on it.

Group Projects ⓘ

• Maxwell

 Manage Projects

 Join a Project

It will take you to a list of the projects. Scroll down to the list of Y-DNA Haplogroup Projects:

Y-DNA HAPLOGROUP PROJECTS							
(3)	4(1)	9(1)	A(14)	B(5)	C(7)	D(2)	E(22)
F(9)	G(15)	H(5)	I(32)	J(54)	K(1)	L(7)	M(4)
N(7)	O(2)	P(2)	Q(7)	R(103)	S(2)	T(7)	U(1)
W(1)	Y(2)	Z(4)	(1)'				

Click on "I (32)" (which means that there are 32 current projects in the I haplogroup). Scroll down to the I-L161 (Isles) project and ask to join!

I-L161 (Isles)	1045	If you have confirmed SNP L161+ or an STR-haplotype (i.e. L161 shows up in your Y-DNA matches list) that points to it and you want to know more about your subgroup, you're very welcome to join! read more...
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We definitely want you to be in the Maxwell group if you are Maxwell or in an Associated Family, regardless of your haplogroup or your surname!

So why do we have Maxwells that are from a different haplogroup or have a surname that is not Maxwell?

There are several possibilities. Simon Maxwell sent out a recent email to some of the Group 14 members about how a different set of Y DNA can be introduced into a family:

"Those of you in America indicate that your relatives emigrated there from Ireland.

"We know the family of kit BP26937 was in Londonderry/Derry, Northern Ireland so this may help you locate earlier origins within Ireland.

"Also as you all have the same Y-DNA and as yet I've not found a common relative say before c1800 then your Y-DNA is common to you before then.

"You do not match the Y-DNA of the Maxwells from Caerlaverock Castle.

"However this strong Catholic family started to lose power in Scotland c1600 when Protestantism was rising.

“A lot of the Maxwells it seems went to Ireland for religious freedom. They may have changed religion as well, to say Church of Ireland or Church of Scotland, or others, or remained Catholics but conformed to Protestant rule.

“My suggestion to you is that there is a ‘Non Parental Event’ (NPE) in your history. By this I mean perhaps:

“1. Miss Maxwell (descended from Caerlaverock) having a child out of wedlock and the child kept the Maxwell name from his mother.

“2. It could be a Mrs Maxwell sleeping with another man and her Maxwell husband (descended from Caerlaverock) not knowing and bringing up the child as his own.

“3. It could be that a Maxwell family (descended from Caerlaverock) adopted a boy from another family.”

Another option is that the Maxwell/Miskell name originated in Ireland.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surname=maxwell>. The page title is "Maxwell Family History". Below the title is the section "Maxwell Name Meaning". The text explains the name's origins: Scottish (habitational name from a place near Melrose in Roxburghshire, first recorded in 1144 as Mackeswell), Irish (common in Ulster, sometimes adopted as an alternative to Miskell), and Jewish (arbitrary adoption of the Scottish name or Americanized form of like-sounding Jewish surnames). The source is cited as "Dictionary of American Family Names ©2013, Oxford University Press".



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surname=miskell>. The page title is "Miskell Family History". Below the title is the section "Miskell Name Meaning". The text explains the name's origins: Irish (Anglicized form of Gaelic Ó Meisceall 'descendant of Meiscill', a personal name of unexplained etymology, see also Maxwell). The source is cited as "Dictionary of American Family Names ©2013, Oxford University Press".

The following is copied from the website <https://www.houseofnames.com/miskell-family-crest>. Any information cited below needs to be independently verified and researched, but it does give us a place to start and some names to start searching for online to see if the information holds up to scrutiny.

“Miskell History, Family Crest & Coats of Arms

“The annals of Scottish history reveal that Miskell was first used as a name by descendants of the Pictish tribe of ancient Scotland. The Miskell family lived in the lands of Keith in the county of East Lothian. Traditionally the Keiths were descended from Robert, an early Chieftain of the Catti tribe, and possibly one of the earliest settlers in Scotland. Robert joined King Malcolm II at the battle of Panbridge, in 1006, against Camus, leader of the Danes.

“Robert slew Camus for which King Malcolm granted Robert the hereditary title of Marshall of Scotland, with a barony in Lothian and the island of Inskeith in the gulf of Edinburgh. It is for this title that the Keiths are sometimes known as the Marshalls, and many Clansmen adopted that name.

“Early Origins of the Miskell family

“The surname Miskell was first found in Haddingtonshire where Harvey Keith, successor of the aforementioned Robert Keith (d. 1346) inherited the office of Marshal late in the 13th century, but was imprisoned by the English until 1304. "Reported to [King] Edward as 'one of his worst enemies,' and 'of bad repute,' he was ordered to be removed to Nottingham Castle; but, on reaching York on his way thither, was sent to Bristol Castle. In 1302 he was admitted to the king's peace, and returning to Scotland, is mentioned as dining with the Prince of Wales at Perth in February 1304." [1]

“He became one of four Deputy Wardens of Scotland [as was Robert Maxwell]. He joined the cause of King Robert the Bruce [as did some of the Maxwells], and for their assistance to the Scottish crown, the Clan was granted the royal forest of Kintore. Harvey Keith commanded the Scots Cavalry at Bannockburn and was probably more instrumental in the annihilation of the English army than any other single person. He was again granted lands for his deeds, this time at the expense of the Clan Cumming (Comyn), whose estates at Buchan were acquired by the Keith Clan.

“His great grandson, Sir William Keith, (d. 1336) founded the tower of Dunottar Castle. He brought the bones and heart of James Douglas, as well as King Robert I of Scotland's heart, back to Scotland after Douglas was killed on crusade in Spain. Through marriage with an heiress of the Cheynes of Axkergill, the Keiths acquired lands in Caithrless, and began a never-ending succession of feuds with their new neighbors, the Gunns and others.

“Early History of the Miskell family

“This web page shows only a small excerpt of our Miskell research. Another 359 words (26 lines of text) covering the years 1438, 1464, 1475, 1540, 1588, 1581, 1553, 1623, 1585, 1635, 1610, 1670, 1714, 1718, 1699, 1758, 1694, 1664, 1712, 1638, 1716 and are included under the topic Early Miskell History in all our PDF Extended History products and printed products wherever possible.

“Miskell Spelling Variations

“During the Middle Ages, there was no basic set of rules and scribes wrote according to sound. The correct spelling of Scottish names were further compromised after many haphazard translations from Gaelic to English and back. Spelling variations of the name Miskell include Keith, Keath, Ceiteach (Gaelic) and others.

“Early Notables of the Miskell family (pre 1700)

“Notable amongst the Clan at this time was William Keith (d. 1475), 1st Earl Marischal of Scotland; Agnes Keith, Countess of Moray (c.1540-1588), a Scottish noblewoman; William Keith, 4th Earl Marischal (d. 1581), a Scottish nobleman and politician; George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal (c.1553-1623), a Scottish nobleman; William Keith, 6th Earl Marischal (c.1585-1635), a Scottish lord, Earl Marischal and naval official; William... Another 61 words (4 lines of text) are included under the topic Early Miskell Notables in all our PDF Extended History products and printed products wherever possible.

“Migration of the Miskell family to Ireland

“Some of the Miskell family moved to Ireland, but this topic is not covered in this excerpt.

“Miskell migration to the United States

“Scots left their country by the thousands to travel to Australia and North America. Desperate for freedom and an opportunity to fend for themselves, many paid huge fees and suffered under terrible conditions on long voyages. Still, for those who made the trip, freedom and opportunity awaited. In North America, many fought their old English oppressors in the American War of Independence. In recent years, Scottish heritage has been an increasingly important topic, as Clan societies and other organizations have renewed people's interest in their history. An examination of passenger and immigration lists shows many early settlers bearing the name of Miskell:

“Miskell Settlers in United States in the 18th Century

- John Miskell, aged 18, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1775 [2]

“Miskell Settlers in United States in the 19th Century

- Patrick Miskell, aged 23, who settled in America, in 1895
- William Miskell, aged 49, who landed in America, in 1897

“Miskell Settlers in United States in the 20th Century

- Patrick Miskell, aged 22, immigrated to the United States from Kilkerrin, Ireland, in 1908
- Maggie Miskell, aged 18, who landed in America from Ballinlongh, Ireland, in 1908
- Richard Miskell, aged 25, who landed in America from Dunmore, Ireland, in 1911
- Mary Miskell, aged 24, who landed in America from Ballinlough, Ireland, in 1912
- Bridget Miskell, aged 20, who landed in America from Kilkerrin, Ireland, in 1916

“Contemporary Notables of the name Miskell (post 1700)

- Nick Kane Miskell, American musician, former member of And Then There Were None, an American rock band from Salem, New Hampshire (active 2003-2010)
- Robert A. Miskell, American co-inventor of the Screw-on electrical wire connector (1997)
- Brian Miskell, American actor, known for Close the Loop (2013), The Raft (2016) and Off the Clock (2011)

“The Miskell Motto

“The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

“Motto: Veritas vincit

Motto Translation: Truth Conquers.

“Citations

1. ^ Smith, George (ed), Dictionary of National Biography. London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1885-1900. Print

2. ^ Filby, P. William, Meyer, Mary K., Passenger and immigration lists index : a guide to published arrival records of about 500,000 passengers who came to the United States and Canada in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. 1982-1985 Cumulated Supplements in Four Volumes Detroit, Mich. : Gale Research Co., 1985, Print (ISBN 0-8103-1795-8).”

(More about the Maxwells as Warden in

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/families/maxwells.htm>)

At this point, we just don't know anything for certain, and can only present possibilities.

Nonetheless, the history of the “I” haplogroup is fascinating. The text below is copied directly from <http://driscoll.dnagen.org/driscollgenes/I-P370overview.htm>

“Haplogroup I2a1a is a subclade of Haplogroup I2, under major parent Haplogroup I. This deep ancient mutation is believed to have originated from the Balkans area more than 25,000 YBP (older than 23,000 B.C.) Some believe it may have come earlier from the Caucasus area. From the Balkans its subclades spread through Europe.

“Haplogroup I has a considerably older presence in Europe than its Neolithic competitor, R1b. It accounts for roughly 20% of Europe's male population. Unlike R, Group I is almost entirely exclusive to Europe (or historical European colonies). It may have been present in Europe from the Paleolithic and its subclades reached Ireland before R1b.”

And copying directly from Joe Flood's posting at <http://y-haplogroup.blogspot.com/2019/>

“I2 - Origins and spread

DRAFT ONLY

“SUMMARY: I2 is the oldest Y-haplogroup of any size in Europe and is associated with the indigenous hunter-gatherer population that colonised Europe after the Ice Age. The I2 population coexisted with agricultural neolithic settlers after 4000 BC and adopted sedentary lifestyles in some places. Like other hunter-gatherer groups, it was decimated by incoming metal-using cultures. I2

survived in areas where it was able to anticipate, block or cooperate with these settlers, mostly in the Balkans and Britain. ...

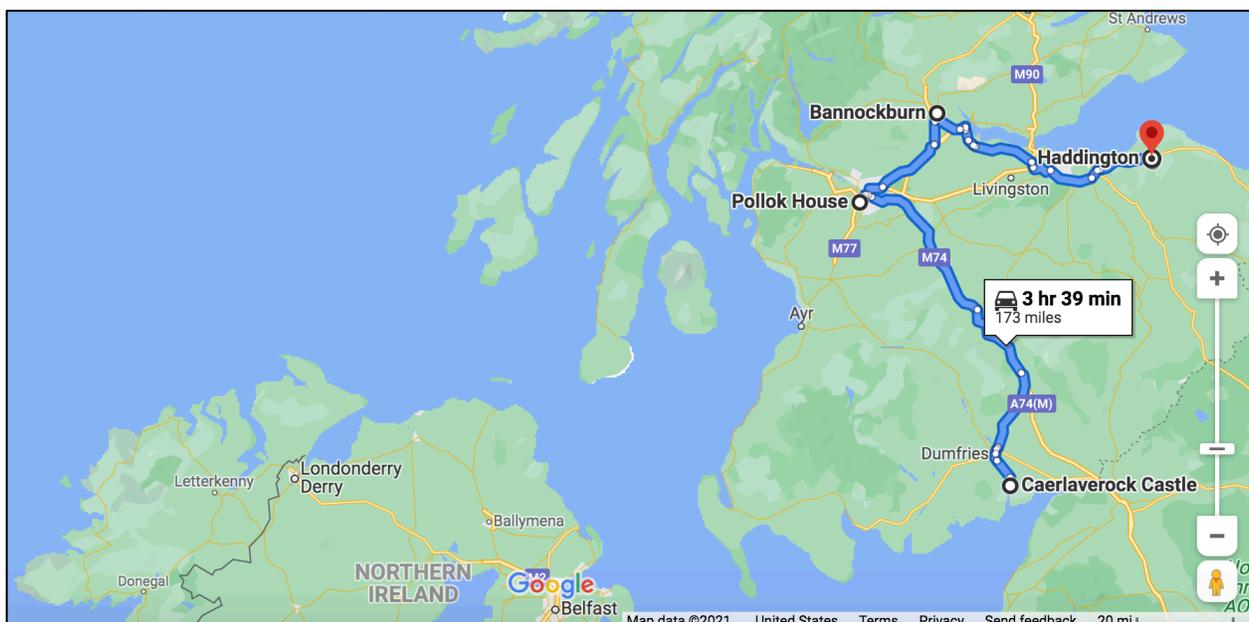
“While the other Mesolithic haplogroups have largely vanished from Europe, I2 still provides a significant number of Y-lines. I2 survived in the Balkans because it already had an indigenous metal-working culture that could defend its space against Bronze settlers and conducted its own Bronze Age expansion, so that today there is still a significant incidence of I2 in the Balkans of about 25% (claimed to be over 50% in Bosnia). Much of this I2 expansion in the Balkans is from the Common Era, associated with the Slavic ethnogenesis followed the collapse of Rome.

“In the Isles, far out at the edge of Europe, I2 also survived and is the third largest Y-haplogroup there after R1b and I1. About 10% of males are I2, rising to about 15% along the south coast of England. Probably the survival of I2 in Britain was due to the difficulty of Bronze Age intruders in deploying large numbers into such a remote location, which gave the local population some time to adjust, mix and adopt the new practices that gave the R1b-P311 intruders such an advantage in food production.”

I agree with the recommendation on the Driscoll website page <http://driscoll.dnagen.org/driscollgenes/I-P370Overview.htm> that states:

“Jack Danel's I-L161 reconstruction is a fun and informative read.” It can be found at <http://s168543378.onlinehome.us/z/L-161%20cover.html>

The tricky thing is that any combination of scenarios could be correct. If the House of Names information is at all accurate (and this needs much more research to know if it is correct or if they have simply thrown bits and pieces of facts together to get people to purchase their longer document), the Keiths (who are supposedly associated with the Miskells) and the Maxwells both fought for Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. The Maxwells of Pollok are not far from there, and the Maxwells of Caerlaverock (descendants of Herbert de Maxwell, c.1240-1298) and the Maxwells of Pollok (descendants of Herbert's brother, John de Maxwell, c.1245-1306) did get together for various battles. The map below shows the various locations (Haddington is the location that is mentioned for the Keiths in East Lothian):



Certainly a Miskell man who may have been haplogroup I and descended from the earlier inhabitants of the Isles—could have conceived a child with a Maxwell woman around the time of the Battle of Bannockburn. Pollok House looks to be about 20 miles away from Bannockburn as the crow flies.

It also could have been another man who was haplogroup I. In early Scotland, the spouse who had a title and or/lands—man or woman—determined the surname. It was not uncommon for men to change their surname to the surname of their wives in order to have their children inherit the family name and possessions.

Each of these possibilities are all speculations based on the fact that we know that some of the Maxwells are haplogroup I and some are haplogroup R1b (and certainly others are some of the other haplogroups). Since Y DNA comes down from father to son to son to son and so on, at some point the ancestor of the group 14 Maxwells was a man who descended from the first inhabitants of the Isles—haplogroup I.

Additional testing of some of the men who are in group 14 might help to narrow these questions down. Having SNPs in common with other men helps to define individual lineages, although without a person who knows his lineage back in an unbroken line—an ancient line kit—finding any type of definitive results can be the luck of the draw. Y DNA testing sometimes narrows things down wonderfully in the tester's lifetime, and sometimes it is information that subsequent generations may benefit from—it's not possible to know for sure ahead of time.

I hope this information provides the group 14 members a jumping-off point for further investigation and will also be of interest to the group 6 members.

Thanks!

Jennifer

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October 4, 2021

P.S. I've included a clan map on this next page:

