

Chapter 3 - Migrations of the Celtic People

Ancient History

My Y-DNA is in Haplogroup R-M269 and specifically in the Germanic Branch subclade U106. The Subclade of R-M269 that is the Celtic branch is L21. So since the Celtic branch is a subset of R-M269, it is appropriate to study the migration of the Celtic people across Europe since it tends to mimic somewhat the migration of the Germanic Branch.

All humanity originates from eastern Africa and some early migrations occurred to the region near the northeast corner of the Caspian Sea. These were the great steppes (grasslands) of the area that now lies within the Country of Kazakhstan. It is a region that is mostly flat and arid. It is covered by steppes, plains, semi-desert and desert. The steppes are arid grasslands that are mostly brown and dusty. It is a place of hot summers and cold winters. This is where haplogroup R first arises about 65,000 years ago.

The migration of the descendants of haplogroup R west towards Europe would take tens of thousands of years. Just a migration of 500 miles would take over 50,000 years. Haplogroup R1 would emerge at 18,000 years ago; Haplogroup R1b would emerge about 12,000 years ago. Which was in the New Stone Age.

The people of the New Stone Age used stone for tools. Neo is a root we use in the English language, it comes from the Greek word neos, which means new or recent. So, Neolithic means "New Stone."

The New Stone Age was a time when the Earth's climate was warmer than the climate in the Old Stone Age. No one knows for sure why the Earth warmed around 12,000 years ago, but it ended the last great ice age.

As the Earth warmed, the population of people and animals increased. A temperate climate meant that animals and people could stay in one place. Some people decided to give up their nomadic lifestyle and settle down. Homes became permanent. People learned to grow their own crops, rather than search for wild berries and grains. This was the beginning of the raising of crops and animals that is known today as agriculture.

Haplogroup R-M269 would emerge about 4,000 to 10,000 years ago. By then humans were in an area that would be known as the Yamna Culture. Modern Irish, Scots and Welsh have a high percentage of Yamna-like admixture with Norwegians (and presumably Icelanders, who, like the Norwegians, have a relatively high percentage of ancestry from Ireland and Scotland from the Viking Age, especially on our maternal side). The Scots and Irish also happen to have the highest percentage of combined Celto-Germanic R1a and R1b (P312 "Celtic" and U106 "Germanic"), and therefore the highest percentage of patrilineal Yamna ancestry.

The Yamna Culture existed from 3300–2600 B.C. The region occupied by the Yamna Culture is an area north of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. This region is in present day Russian between Kazakhstan on the east and Ukraine on the west. The Yamna Culture is

Traces Through World History

generally considered by linguists as the homeland of the Proto-Indo-European language. They were a highly mobile steppe culture of pastoral nomads relying heavily on cattle (dairy farming). Sheep were also kept for their wool. Hunting, fishing and sporadic agriculture was practiced near rivers. They were the first culture to make regular use of ox-drawn wheeled carts. Metal artifacts (tools, axes, tanged daggers) were mostly made of copper, with some arsenical bronze. Domesticated horses were used as pack animals and ridden to manage cattle herds. They constructed coarse, flat-bottomed, egg-shaped pottery decorated with comb stamps and cord impressions. Their dead were inhumed in pit graves inside kurgans (burial mounds). Bodies were placed in a supine position with bent knees and covered in ochre. Wagons/carts and sacrificed animals (cattle, horse, sheep) were present in graves, a trait typical of later Indo-European cultures.

Formation of a Celtic Culture

Scholars place the origin of the Celts within the Indo-European who, in about 3000 B.C., inhabited the territory east of the Carpathian Mountains in present day Romania. The story of their dispersal north and west remains unclear. Rich in oral tradition, ancient Celts rarely used a written language, and the details of everyday life must be pieced together from classical references, archeological finds, and legends later put into writing by Irish monks. For now we must define the Celts as a loose federation of European tribes - people who never formed a political empire but who shared a common language, a distinctive material culture and closely related religious ideas.

The names of Celt and Gaul are properly the names of the Celtic people of the European Continent. The Celts are not a race, but a group of peoples, or, to speak more accurately, a group of societies. The Gauls were organized in clans and clans have always had their own colors and emblems.

The Hallstatt and La Tene Cultures

The Celtic culture began to emerge around 800 B.C., when newly introduced iron-working dramatically improved the quality of weapons and tools. Scholars labeled this early iron-using culture "Hallstatt," after the Austrian burial site where a major discovery of artifacts from this period was made in the mid-19th century.

The Hallstatt culture was the predominant Western and Central European culture of Late Bronze Age from the 1200 B.C. to 800 B.C. It is commonly associated with Proto-Celtic and Celtic populations in the Western Hallstatt zone with an epicenter around southern Germany and Austria on the northside of the Alps.

The Celtic tribes would move far and wide across central Europe. By 600 B.C., they had expanded to include wide territories, falling into two zones, east and west, between them covering much of western and central Europe down to the Alps, and extending into northern Italy. Parts of Britain and Iberia are included in the ultimate expansion of the culture.

The Hallstatt culture was based on farming, but metal-working was considerably

Traces Through World History

advanced, and by the end of the period long-range trade within the area and with Mediterranean cultures was economically significant. Social distinctions became increasingly important, with emerging elite classes of chieftains and warriors, and perhaps those with other skills. Society was organized on a tribal basis, though very little is known about this. Only a few of the largest settlements, like Heuneburg in the south of Germany, were towns rather than villages by modern standards.

Fearless and high-spirited, the Celts rushed into battle as if into sport. In hilltop forts they held regal feasts, and in sacred oak groves they offered human sacrifice. Ornaments adorned their chariots and persons; poets sang of their deeds. In eight centuries before Christ, these people created the first civilization north of the Alps; their domain at its height spread from the North Sea to the Mediterranean and from the Black Sea to the Atlantic.

While there was little in the way of political structure to unite these tribes, their evolving language and religion would serve to unite them. The Druids formed an order in Celtic society, but that order was a brotherhood, a society of individuals collectively exercising a social function. Their organization cut across the divisions of tribes and states. The Druidical colleges obtained new members by training and co-option. Fruitfulness, fertility, and life have always been the chief concern of these brotherhoods. The existence of a pan-Celtic priesthood, dating from the origin of the race, ensured a certain unity for the religions of the various Celtic people.

Hallstatt technology dressed the stage for the Celtic peak of material achievement and influence in the La Tène period. The La Tène culture was an European Iron Age culture. It developed and flourished during the late Iron Age (from about 450 B.C. to the Roman conquest in the 1st century A.D.), succeeding the early Iron Age Hallstatt culture without any definite cultural break, under the impetus of considerable Mediterranean influence from the Greeks in pre-Roman Gaul.

Its territorial extent corresponded to what is now France, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Southern Germany, the Czech Republic, parts of Northern Italy, Slovenia and Hungary, as well as adjacent parts of the Netherlands, Slovakia, Croatia, Transylvania (western Romania), and Transcarpathia (western Ukraine). The Celtiberians of western Iberia shared many aspects of the culture, though not generally the artistic style. To the north extended the contemporary Pre-Roman Iron Age of Northern Europe, including the Jastorf culture of Northern Germany.

Centered on ancient Gaul, the culture became very widespread, and encompasses a wide variety of local differences. It is often distinguished from earlier and neighboring cultures mainly by the La Tène style of Celtic art, characterized by curving "swirly" decoration, especially of metalwork.

It is named after the type site of La Tène on the north side of Lake Neuchâtel in Switzerland, where thousands of objects had been deposited in the lake, as was discovered after the water level dropped in 1857. La Tène is the type site and the term archaeologists use for the later period of the culture and art of the ancient Celts, a term that is firmly entrenched in the popular understanding, but presents numerous problems for historians and archaeologists.

A new body of colonists arrived at the beginning of the first period of La Tène. The middle valley of the Danube River was becoming peopled and organized as a Celtic country in this period. The Celts had arrived on the seaboard of Spain before 500 B.C.

Traces Through World History

The Galatians

In 300 B.C., the Celts were invited into Asia Minor (present day Turkey) at the behest of the King of Bithynia. Twenty-thousand Celts crossed into Asia Minor. After 50 years of pillaging the warriors settled in an area called Galatia. The root of the word Galatia is Gaels. This is the community of people that St. Paul addressed in his Letters to the Galatians. His letters are believed to have been written between 50 and 60 A.D. Other than this close call with what occurred in the Holy Land, it appears that there would be little evidence of any connection in our family history with the characters of the Bible.

The Confederation of Gaul

Gaul was a historical region of Western Europe during the Iron Age that was inhabited by Celtic tribes, encompassing present day France, Luxembourg, Belgium, most of Switzerland, and parts of Northern Italy, Netherlands, and Germany, particularly the west bank of the Rhine. It covered an area of 191,000 square miles. The root of the word “Gaelic” is of course “Gaul.”

Gaul, by the 2nd century B.C. was home to 60 major tribes. Some of the inhabitants lived in fortified settlements – a break from the rural character of archaic Celtic society. Gaul had an extensive urban fabric and was prosperous.

Gaul was not at all impoverished and it was possible to accumulate wealth. It was one of those agricultural countries in which a good harvest at once restores the financial situation. Profitable crops, vine and olive, were being introduced at the time. The Romans later forbade them, so they must have been prosperous.

The Greeks and Romans regarded the Celts as Barbarians, but as Barbarians of a superior kind. Traditionally identified as a completely separate people, the Germanic tribes in fact had close cultural ties with the Celts.

Caesar made an arbitrary decision to divide Europe into the Gallic domain, which he planned to conquer and the Germanic region, which he preferred to leave alone. So in the first century B.C., Roman troops from the south and Germanic people from the north would catch Gaul in a fatal vise.

The Romans first intervened in Gaul in 154 B.C. During the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C., Gaul fell under Roman rule: Gallia Cisalpina was conquered in 203 B.C. and Gallia Narbonensis in 123 B.C. Gaul was invaded after 120 B.C. by the Cimbri and the Teutons, who were in turn defeated by the Romans by 103 B.C. As a direct result of their first conquests, Rome took control of an area extending from the Pyrenees to the lower Rhône River, and in the east up the Rhône Valley to Lake Geneva. By 121 B.C. Romans had conquered the Mediterranean region called Provincia. This conquest upset the ascendancy of the Gaulish Arverni peoples.

A Gallic hero from the Arverni Tribe would rise in an effort to defeat the Roman invasion of Gael. Vercingetorix was a king and chieftain of the Arverni tribe; he united the Gauls in a revolt against Roman forces. Vercingetorix was the son of Celtillus the Arvernian, leader of the Gallic tribes. Vercingetorix came to power after his formal designation as chieftain of the Arverni at the oppidum Gergovia in 52 B.C. He immediately established an alliance with other

Traces Through World History

Gallic tribes, took command and combined all forces, and led them in the Celts' most significant revolt against Roman power. He won the Battle of Gergovia against Julius Caesar in which several thousand Romans and allies died and Caesar's Roman legions withdrew.

However, Caesar had been able to exploit Gaulish internal division to easily subjugate the country, and Vercingetorix's attempt to unite the Gauls against Roman invasion came too late. At the Battle of Alesia, the Romans besieged and defeated his forces. In order to save as many of his men as possible, he gave himself to the Romans. He was held prisoner for five years. In 46 B.C., as part of Caesar's triumph, Vercingetorix was paraded through the streets of Rome and then executed by strangulation. Vercingetorix is primarily known through Caesar's Commentaries on the Gallic War. To this day, Vercingetorix is considered a folk hero in Auvergne, his native region. Caesar has set him up at the beginning of the history of France and at the end of the history of the Gauls.

Now that Caesar had finally subdued the remaining parts of Gaul, he divided it into three parts: Gallia Celtica, Belgica, and Aquitania. By this time, Gaul was already three-quarters Romanized. Later, the Edict of Caracalla made the assimilation complete by extending the citizenship to the lower classes of the population.

Roman control of Gaul lasted for five centuries until 486 A.D. While the Celtic Gauls had lost their original identities and language during Late Antiquity, becoming amalgamated into a Gallo-Roman culture, Gallia remained the conventional name of the territory throughout the Early Middle Ages, until it acquired a new identity as the Capetian Kingdom of France in the high medieval period.

After five centuries, the Celtic language had died out and been replaced by Latin, which would evolve into French.

Unlike the Romans, the Celts had not merely taken over from the first inhabitants. They had built their own houses and cities and they arranged the country to suit themselves. They were the founders of the towns and villages of modern France. The origins of the French nation goes back to the Celts. The Celts made the France of today.

The intentions of the Romans and the failure of Vercingetorix to pull the Gaul confederation together and form a nation perhaps prevented the Celtic culture from creating one of the most dominant countries in Europe. The wandering Celts would have to find somewhere else to thrive.

Arrival in the British Isles

Scholars commonly date the "arrival" of Celtic culture in British Isles to the 6th century B.C. This is supported by archaeological evidence of Hallstatt influence and the appearance of chariot burials in what is now England. It is clear that Celtic tribes had arrived on the coasts of the western seas before 600 B.C. Some historians believe that the Goidels were the first tribe to cross over to the Isles perhaps as early as 700 B.C. The Goidels are the tribe that would later be referred to as the "Irish" as they primarily settled and occupied lands in Ireland. The Goidels came from France to Ireland, and probably by the Atlantic coast starting from the south of the mouth of the Loire.

Traces Through World History

The Picts were not the first, but the second body to enter the British Isles. They would arrive not too long after the Goidels. The Picts and Goidels seem to have followed the same route and, in general, to have gone about the extension of their settlements in the same way. They landed on the south and east coasts of Britain. The Goidels crossed the country and coming to the opposite shore, crossed over to reach Ireland. The Picts would occupy all or part of Caledonia before the Scots.

The Britons are thought to have crossed to the British Isles as early as 550 B.C. and 500 B.C. Some say the Britons descend from the Celtic tribe called the Belgae who inhabited the northern most portion of Gaul.

What I present here is the traditional story of how the Celtic tribes migrated to the British Isles having emerged from the Hallstatt and La Tene cultures of central Europe. This migration story remains highly supported by many archeologists and historians. But some differing opinions have emerged. For example, Oxford professor Stephen Oppenheimer stated that: "Everything you know about British and Irish ancestry is wrong. Our ancestors were Basques, not Celts." He believes that the ancestors of the English came as hunter-gatherers, between 15,000 and 7,500 years ago, after the melting of the ice caps but before the land broke away from the mainland and divided into islands.

Oppenheimer thinks that Celts have been resident in the British Isles here for far longer than those that originated from the Hallstatt and La Tene cultures in central Europe. Rather he believes the Celts of the British Isles are descendants of people who had taken refuge from the last ice age in the Iberian peninsula in the area now inhabited by the Basque people. As the climate improved, they moved northward up the coast of France and on to Ireland, western England, Wales and eventually Scotland. He believes the English still derive most of their current gene pool from the same early Basque source as the Irish, Welsh and Scots.

It is certainly true that there were indigenous people on the British Isles before the arrival of the Celtis tribes. For example, Stonehenge is believed to have been constructed in 3000 B.C. One of the most popular beliefs was that Stonehenge was built by the Celtic. But its time of construction was over a thousand years before the Celts ever inhabited this region. Most scientists agree on the modern theory that the first people to work on the site were Neolithic agrarians. These people were a blend of the local peoples and Neolithic tribe members from Eastern England..

However the Celts got there, the base DNA of the people of the British Isles is clearly Celtic. As Brian Sykes puts it in his book, *Saxons, Vikings, and Celts, the Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland*, "... overall the genetic structure of the Isles is stubbornly Celtic, if by that we mean people who were here before the Romans and who spoke a Celtic language."

The Roman Conquest of Britain

By the 3rd century B.C., Rome had embarked on its conquest of Celtic lands, and for the next three centuries, tribes fell one by one before the march of Roman legions. Only Ireland and part of Scotland would escape the attacks, invasions, and conquests.

The earliest known reference to the inhabitants of Britain seems to come from 4th century

Traces Through World History

B.C. records of the voyage of Pytheas, a Greek geographer who made a voyage of exploration around the British Isles between 330 and 320 B.C. Subsequent reports of his voyage made reference to the Celtic tribes that were present on the Islands. These tribes were known as the Britons, the Picts, and the Goidels. The Romans presumed them to be the native inhabitants when they invaded Britain in 43 A.D.

The Celts in Britain had lived in peace until the time of Caligula (37-41 A.D.), when the Romans made their first expedition. The Romans returned under Claudius in 43 A.D., for the first time with the fixed intention of remaining. The Romans established a colony at Camulodunum and a system of small forts in the west facing Cornwall.

Britain was conquered, except that mysterious Caledonia and the central portion of Wales. The Picts were thought by the Romans to be the mysterious tribe of the north. The Romans built Hadrian's wall in a feeble attempt to keep them from coming south into Roman territory. Wales was occupied by the Welsh who were descendants of the Britons.

The Roman government carried on the same policy of assimilation in Britain as in Gaul, but with much less success. In the Roman towns Latin was spoken, but whereas in Gaul the Latin outlasted Roman rule, in Britain it vanished when the Romans departed.

Although the Romans did not know Ireland, they were known there and their influence was felt there. The Irish had been fighting for four hundred years, and so were well trained to warfare and daring.

The Romans would abandon their occupation of Britain between 388 A.D. to 400 A.D. In their 300 years of occupation they were not fully able to Romanize the Celtic population on the island. They did however classify these people into the Irish, the Scots, the Picts, the Welsh, and the Britons. The Romans had coined the terms Picts and Scoti. The Picts' name first appeared in 297 A.D. and comes from the Latin Picti, meaning "painted people." Scoti or Scotti is a Latin name for the Gaels, first attested in the late 3rd century. At first it referred to all Gaels, whether in Ireland or Britain, but later it came to refer only to Gaels in northern Britain. The kingdom to which their culture spread became known as Scotia or Scotland, and eventually all its inhabitants came to be known as Scots. However, the Goidels (Irish) were of the same Gaelic stock as the Scotti. In fact, it would be from Ireland that a migration of Gaelic people would occur to the Western Isles and the Argyll coast. The Gaels of Ireland had always used the term Goidelic (Gaelic) to name themselves as a whole.

The Formation of a Celtic Kingdom

Looking at the Celtic cultures it can be seen that there was a little in the way of Kingdom or nation creation. In their migrations, the Celts did not approach movement to other locations in terms of conquest or subjugation of the native people found there. There may have been some displacement, but for the most part they merely assimilated into the native populations. Other than the Druid community and network, the Celts had little interest in building up political structures. Other than the brief rebellion against Roman rule led by Vercingetorix in Gaul, they generally offered little resistance to conquering forces. But some of that would change in the 3rd century. The Kingdom that they founded would have a profound influence on our Celtic

Traces Through World History

ancestors.

The Dal Riada tribe of the Goidels of Ulster took possession of Argyll and the neighboring Western Isles (Hebrides). The first landing seems to have been in the first half of the 3rd century. Conaire II, who was king of Munster but appears in the list of High Kings of Ireland from 212 to 220, had a son Carbri Riada. When there was famine in the South, Carbri Riada led his people to the extreme Northeast of Ireland, and some of them crossed to the nearest part of Scotland, where they settled, forming the first important colony of Scots (Irish) in Alba, and driving there the edge of the Irish wedge which was eventually to make the whole country known as the land of the Scots (Irish). The Irish territory which Carbri Riada's people settled, the Northeast of Antrim, and the territory opposite to it in Alba, into which his people overflowed, became known as the two Dal Riada. And though divided by sea, these two territories were, for many centuries, to be as one territory, administered and ruled over by the one Irish prince.

In 470, Fergus MacEirc, King of the Ulster Dal Riada and a descendant of Carbri Riada, crossed into Scotland with his brothers. It was doubtless an attempt to reunite the two halves of the tribe. This is the original date of the foundation of the kingdom of the Scots and its royal line. The attempt succeeded, and a double kingdom was thus founded, the Isle of Man being attached to it.

Thus we find that the Goidels (Irish) and the Scots originate from the same Celtic stock. The Celtic practices and traditions, the Gaelic language, and even Christianity would flow from Northern Ireland to the Western Isles and the Argyll coast through the founding of the Ancient Kingdom of Dal Riada. This unique Celtic culture would differentiate the Highland Scots from the Lowland Scots for generations to come. One tradition was the practice of the Goidels in not wearing trousers at all. Thus the costume of the Highlander in the wearing of the kilt is a faithful witness to the Goidelic origin of the Scots.

More about the Ancient Kingdom of Dal Riada in the next chapter.

The Anglo-Saxon Conquest

The Anglo-Saxons were comprised of people from Germanic tribes who migrated to the island of Britain from continental Europe, their descendants, and indigenous British groups who adopted many aspects of Anglo-Saxon culture and language. The Anglo-Saxons established the Kingdom of England, and the modern English language owes almost half of its words – including the most common words of everyday speech – to their language.

The first Anglo-Saxons raided the shores of south and east England in the 4th century A.D., but they were beaten back by the Romans. At the beginning of the 5th century, the Romans left Britain. ... It is for this reason that the time of the Anglo-Saxons is usually thought of as beginning about 450 A.D. They came from an area near Southern Denmark and Amsterdam.

The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of East Anglia, Mercia, Northumbria, Kent, Essex, Sussex, and Wessex became established, each with its own king. On July 12, 927, the various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were united by Æthelstan to form the Kingdom of England.

A myth that has persisted in England is that the Celts were completely wiped out by the Anglo-Saxons and the DNA of the Celts vanished from England. DNA studies have proven this

Traces Through World History

to be erroneous. It has been said that school children as late as the 20th century were being taught that the English are almost all descended from 5th century invaders, the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, from the Danish peninsula, who wiped out the indigenous Celtic population of England.

The fake story originates with the clerical historians of the early dark ages. Gildas and Bede who tell of Saxons and Angles invading over the 5th and 6th centuries. Gildas, in particular, sprinkles his tale with “rivers of blood” descriptions of Saxon massacres. And then there is the well-documented history of Anglian and Saxon kingdoms covering England for 500 years before the Norman invasion.

Professor Bryan Sykes puts it this way, “we are an ancient people, and though the Isles have been the target of invasion and opposed settlement from abroad ever since Julius Caesar first stepped on to the shingle shores of Kent, these have barely scratched the topsoil of our deep-rooted ancestry.” There is little truth to the popular view that the Angles and Saxons massacred and displaced England’s indigenous Celtic population - an invasion classified in some modern texts as genocide.

During the Anglo-Saxon era came the invasion of the Vikings. The earliest Viking raids on England occurred around 789. In 865, a large Viking army (the great heathen army) invaded East Anglia, Northumbria, and Mercia. This army was led by Ivar “the boneless” Ragnarsson and Halfdan Ragnarsson, sons of Ragnar “Iodbrok” Sigurdsson (our 30th great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree).

By the 870s, the Vikings made extensive settlements in Eastern England. In ten years, the Danes (Vikings) had gained control over East Anglia, Northumbria and Mercia, leaving just Wessex resisting. The Vikings would establish the “Danelaw” over these areas. The Danelaw would last until 1066. King of Norway Harald Hadrada Sigurdsson (our 23rd great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree) landed in England with an army, hoping to take control of York and the English crown. He was defeated and killed on September 25, 1066 at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. This event is often cited as the end of the Viking era. The same year, William the Conqueror (our 26th great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree) , himself a descendant of Vikings, successfully took the English throne and became the first Norman king of England.

The Anglo-Norman Invasions

The Normans are an ethnic group that arose from contact between Norse Viking settlers of a region in France called Normandy. The progenitor of the Normans is Göngu-Hrólfr (Rollo) "Rolf the Ganger" Rögnvaldsson (our 28th great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree). He is the 3rd great grandfather of William the Conqueror.

On October 14, 1066, William the Conqueror gained a decisive victory at the Battle of Hastings, which led to the conquest of England three years later. The invading Normans and their descendants replaced the Anglo-Saxons as the ruling class of England.

Eventually, the Normans merged with the natives, combining languages and traditions. The Anglo-Normans married into the noble families in England, Scotland, and Ireland. While the line of Scottish kings started with persons with Celtic origins, with intermarriage with Anglo-Normans, many of the lowland Scots soon became more Anglo-Norman than they were Scots.

Traces Through World History

While the Scots in the Highlands and Western Isles remain more-or-less purely of Celtic origins. This is another factor which would differentiate the Highland Scots from the Lowland Scots and lead to many clan disputes.

By 1169, Ireland was experiencing an army of Normans, Flemings, and Welsh landed in Ulster where they established feudal estates. King Henry II left the task of completing the conquest to a few feudal magnates, the FitzGerald, the De Courcies, the De Burghs, who had to secure real possession of their fiefs. These Anglo-Norman invaders built the castle and founded the town of Carrickfergus as their Ulster headquarters in 1177. The Irish then started looking for allies and leaders abroad. In 1263 they appealed to King of Norway Hakon Hákonarson (our 21st great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree) who was then in the Hebrides and later in 1314 to Robert Bruce (our 21st great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree), who sent them his brother Edward Bruce.

The Dominance of England

In the British Isles, it would be England that would form the most influential and powerful nation state. Their sense of Anglo-Saxon superiority would drive them in their attempts to conquer and subjugate Ireland and Scotland. Our Celtic ancestors would find themselves on the losing side of many of these attempts at Anglicization.

The state of things went on to the end of the 16th century, to the time of Elizabeth and James VI and I, or rather to that of Cromwell and William of Orange. Ireland and the Highlander Scots took up the Stewart cause. They were conquered, but not absorbed.

Our ancestors would be British subjects for decades to come. Some would become United Irishmen and participate in the Rebellion of 1798. This would result in imprisonment and banishment to Canada. Others would be subject to the “Highland Clearances” and suddenly find themselves on ships headed for Canada. Our ancestors would find good reason to sever their ties from England.

Sources:

- *The Rise of the Celts and the Greatness and Decline of the Celts*, Henri Hubert, Braken Books, London, 1993. (625 pages, first written in 1934)
- *Saxons, Vikings, and Celts, the Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland*, “ Bryan Sykes, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, 2007.
- *The Story of the Irish Race, a Popular History of Ireland*, Seumas MacManus, Chartwell Books, New York, NY, 2018.
- *Historical Atlas of the Vikings*, John Haywood, Penguin Books, London, 1995.
- Various articles on Wikipedia.