MY DNA STORY

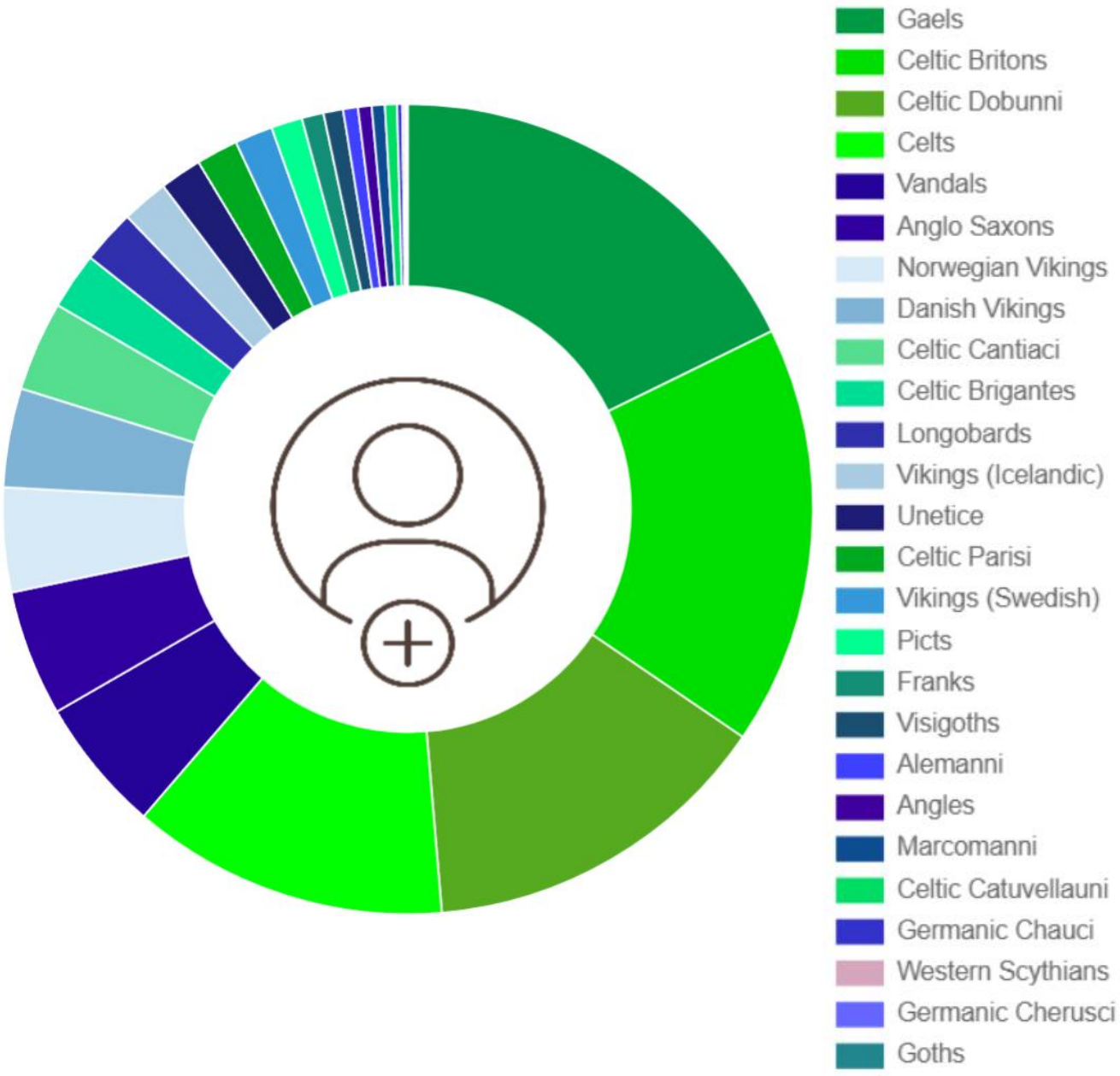
ABSTRACT

DNA results show the origins of my many ancestors as a percentage of my genetic heritage. Each ancestral tribe has an interesting story. This adds additional detail to my family history.

William McCready

RESULTS OF DNA TESTING FOR THE ANCESTRY OF WILLIAM B MCCREADY

Your DNA matches many ancient individuals from history. This chart represents a union of all your matching samples and their own individual classification. The displayed result is your personalized ancestral breakdown.



PERCENT OF DNA
WILLIAM MCCREADY

17.7% Gaels
16.7% Celtic Britons
14.1% Celtic Dobunni
12.6% Celts
5.35% Vandals
5.01% Anglo Saxons
4.15% Norwegian Vikings
3.94% Danish Vikings
3.57% Celtic Cantiaci
2.26% Celtiic Brigantes
2.16% Longoboards
1.85% Vikings (Icelandic)
1.67% Unetice
1.66% Celtic Parisi
1.51% Vikings (Swedish)
1.24% Picts
0.87% Franks
0.78% Visigoths
0.59% Alemanni
0.54% Angles
0.52% Marcmanni
0.48% Celtic Cauvallauni
0.20% Germanic Chauci
0.11% Western Scythians
>0.1% Germanic Cherusci
>0.1% Goths

Archaeological Samples that share Genetic Signatures with WBMc DNA

Closest Archaeogenetic matches (Smaller numbers mean closer matches to you)

Match #23. Bronze Age Orkney Westray Links of Noltland

1319 BC - Genetic Distance: 5.361

Links of Noltland is a brilliantly preserved farming settlement dating from about 3300 BC to 800 BC. Neolithic remains include a dozen buildings and the 'Westray Wifie' figurine. Grobust Bay is also home to Orkney's largest Bronze Age settlement. The Westray Wife (also known as the Orkney Venus) is a small Neolithic figurine (1.6 inch high), carved from sandstone. It was discovered during a dig at the Links of Noltand, on Westray, Orkney, Scotland, in the summer of 2009. It was the first Neolithic carving of a human form to have been found in Scotland, and to date it is the earliest depiction of a face found in the United Kingdom

Match #35. Pict Graveyard Early Medieval Scotland Balintore

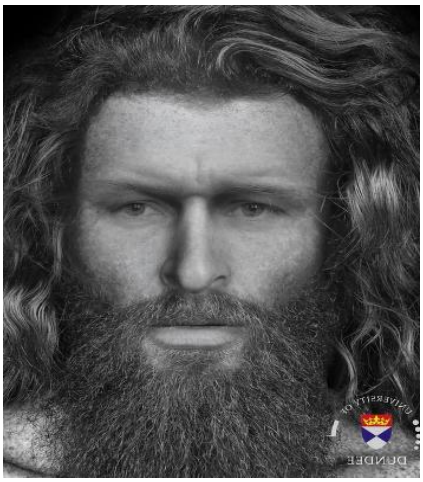
550 AD - Genetic Distance: 5.698

In Scotland, one of the largest Pictish cemeteries ever uncovered by archaeologists is believed to be at least 1400 years old. The archaeologists during their excavations have found barrows or burial mounds. Barrows were monuments constructed with a mound of earth and stones, and are often associated with burials, though this may not have been their original purpose. The discovery is one of the biggest, if not the largest Pictish burial grounds, found to date. Some fragments of bone and charcoal have been unearthed at the site. The find was made not long after the ''discovery of a previously unrecorded Pictish stone about six miles (10km) away''. The cemetery is also near the medieval Rosemarkie monastic settlement which is renowned for its magnificent Pictish carvings.

Match #40. Pict Era Scotland Black Isle Rosemarkie Cave

541 AD - Genetic Distance: 5.915

The Pictish period skeletal remains, c . 430 – 630 AD, of a robust young man with severe cranial and facial injuries was found by archaeologists in a cave on the Black Isle in 2016. As has been widely reported, a facial reconstruction of the man was later produced by Dame Sue Black and her team at the University of Dundee.



Above: Rosemarkie man
Facial Reconstuction
Left: Rosemarkie Cave
Rosemarkie Pictish Skeleton

Match #64. Early Medieval Pict Era Scotland Lundin Links Cemetery
550 AD - Genetic Distance: 6.377

The graves at Lundin Links which were exposed during a storm in the 1990s.
This revealed the brutal death of a Pictish man who lived in a Fife coastal community around 1,500 years ago.

Analysis of his badly damaged skull determined that the man, nicknamed Solomon by archaeologists, was killed by five hard blows to the head that were likely delivered from above by a heavy sharp bladed instrument, such as a sword or axe. His is likely to have been hit from above, with his attacker possibly striking from horseback. Solomon tried to evade his attacker, moving between the first and second strike, but he did not survive the violent encounter which took place sometime between 500 and 700AD. The man, who was probably in his late thirties or early forties when he died, was buried in an elaborate grave on Lundin Links near Lower Largo, with the style of burial suggesting he was respected within the community.

Genetic and Cultural Origins of William B. McCready
The DNA analysis of William B. McCready reveals a lineage that is both complex and deeply rooted in the ancient peoples of Ireland, Scotland, and northern Europe. Rather than a simple descent from a single tribe or dynasty, the genetic record demonstrates a layered ancestry shaped by successive waves of migration, conquest, and cultural assimilation. This profile provides a rare opportunity to situate the McCready family within the broader currents of European prehistory and medieval history.

The largest proportion of genetic inheritance derives from the Gaels, who account for nearly eighteen percent of the ancestral composition. The Gaels were the bearers of the Gaelic language and culture, native to Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. Their society was organized into clans, ruled by kings or chiefs elected through tanistry, and their mythology—preserved in medieval manuscripts—remains one of the richest in Europe. Gaelic resilience is evident in their survival of Anglo-Norman conquest and their continued dominance in Scotland and Ireland.

Closely related are the Celtic Britons, Dobunni, and other insular Celtic tribes, whose combined presence in the genetic record underscores the deep integration of the McCready line into the early populations of Britain. The Britons, known to Greek and Roman historians, were formidable warriors and skilled farmers, while the Dobunni of the Cotswolds were noted for their peaceful disposition and early adoption of Romano-British life. Together, these Celtic strands account for a significant portion of the McCready heritage and situate the family within the Iron Age and Roman landscapes of Britain.

The broader Celtic world of mainland Europe also contributes to the lineage. These continental Celts, including Gauls and Helvetii, were renowned for their artistry, mercenary service, and distinctive warrior traditions. Their cultural imprint is visible in the DNA record, linking the McCready family to the wider network of Celtic tribes that stretched from Iberia to the Danube.

The Vandals, Anglo-Saxons, and other Germanic groups add further complexity. The Vandals, originally from Scandinavia, migrated through Poland and into Iberia and North Africa, leaving a legacy of conquest and assimilation. The Anglo-Saxons, arriving in Britain during the collapse of Roman authority, established kingdoms that reshaped the island's political and cultural landscape. Their pagan traditions, later Christianized under rulers such as Aethelbert of Kent, became foundational to English identity. These Germanic contributions, though smaller in percentage, reflect the centuries of migration and settlement that defined late antiquity.

The Norse element is particularly striking. Norwegian and Danish Vikings together account for over eight percent of the genetic profile, with additional traces from Icelandic and Swedish lineages. These seafaring people were pioneers of exploration and settlement, from Lindisfarne to Vinland. Their presence in the McCready DNA confirms the historical record of Viking incursions and integration into Ireland and Scotland. Archaeological evidence supports this genetic link: skeletal remains from Pictish graveyards in Balintore, Rosemarkie, and Lundin Links show direct genetic affinities with the McCready line. These sites, dating from the fifth to seventh centuries, reveal both the brutality of the age and the respect accorded to individuals within their communities. The match with Bronze Age Orkney further anchors the lineage in the earliest farming settlements of Scotland, connecting the McCready family to the Neolithic and Bronze Age inhabitants of the northern isles.

Recent genetic research into Irish populations provides additional context. The traditional narrative of the Irish as purely Celtic migrants from central Europe has been revised. Genome sequencing of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains demonstrates that early settlers arrived from southern Europe and the Middle East, bringing agriculture to Ireland, while later migrations from the Eurasian Steppe introduced new genetic components. The Rathlin Island remains, dating to 4,000 years ago, show affinities with modern Irish, Scottish, and Welsh populations, confirming continuity across millennia. The mythic accounts of the Leabhar Gabhála, which describe successive invasions by Fir Bolg, Tuatha de Danann, and Milesians from Spain, find partial support in genetic links between Ireland and the Basque country. The high incidence of the R1b haplogroup in Ireland and northern Spain suggests shared male ancestry, reinforcing the maritime connections along Europe's Atlantic seaboard.

The McCready surname itself, derived from MacRaida, may reflect parallel Gaelic nobility. Y-DNA studies at Trinity College, Dublin, indicate that men with surnames like McCready, MacCredie, and MacNiall may carry the M222 subclade, associated with Uí Néill descent. This suggests shared genetic heritage, but not direct dynastic descent. Thus, the name Mac Ríada may reflect parallel Gaelic nobility, possibly ecclesiastical or regional, rather than royal Uí Néill bloodlines. This nuance highlights the complexity of medieval identity, where ecclesiastical, regional, and dynastic affiliations overlapped.

The genetic atlas of Ireland further demonstrates that modern Irish DNA clusters strongly with the four ancient kingdoms—Connacht, Leinster, Munster, and Ulster—suggesting that political boundaries left enduring genetic signatures. Viking influence, once thought minimal, is now

confirmed by DNA evidence, particularly in Ulster, where Norse settlement and intermarriage were significant.

Cultural traits embedded in the DNA include the MC1R gene associated with red hair, fair skin, and freckles, which originated tens of thousands of years ago and remains common in Ireland and Scotland. The phenomenon of the "Black Irish," often attributed to Iberian or Armada survivors, reflects the genetic diversity introduced through maritime exchange and migration. Despite political divisions, Irish and British populations share deep genetic roots, with Ireland's relative isolation preserving older lineages while England absorbed greater diversity through successive invasions.

The DNA record of William B. McCready confirms a heritage that is both ancient and multifaceted. It encompasses Gaels and Britons, Celts and Picts, Vandals and Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Franks. Each group contributed to the shaping of a lineage that survived conquest, migration, and assimilation, yet retained continuity across two millennia. The genetic evidence aligns with the historical narrative of the MacRaida and McCready families: noble origins in Ireland, migration to Scotland with the Dalriata, prominence in Ayrshire and Wigtownshire, and eventual diaspora across the world.

This synthesis of genetic science and historical tradition affirms that the McCready story is not merely one of names and places, but of resilience, adaptation, and identity. It is a legacy that connects the family to the earliest farmers of Orkney, the warriors of Pictish Scotland, the kings of Gaelic Ireland, and the seafarers of Viking Norway. Preserved now in both documentary and genetic form, it stands as a testament to continuity and belonging, offering future generations a foundation of pride and inspiration.

History and DNA United

The story of the McCready family is not only preserved in chronicles and records but written into the very fabric of our DNA. Historical sources trace the lineage from the MacRaida nobles of ancient Ireland, through migrations into Scotland with the Dalriata, and prominence in Ayrshire and Wigtownshire. The genetic record confirms and enriches this narrative, revealing deep roots among the Gaels, Celtic Britons, Dobunni, and Picts, alongside contributions from Vandals, Anglo-Saxons, and Viking settlers.

Archaeogenetic matches to Bronze Age Orkney and Pictish graveyards in Scotland anchor the family's presence in the earliest farming and warrior communities of the region. Modern DNA studies further demonstrate continuity with the ancient kingdoms of Ireland, while also revealing Iberian, Norse, and Steppe influences that shaped the population over millennia. The McCready surname, derived from MacRaida, reflects Gaelic nobility and regional prominence, while genetic markers suggest possible association with the Uí Néill subclade, though not direct dynastic descent.

Taken together, the historical and genetic evidence affirms a lineage that is both noble and resilient. It is a story of adaptation across centuries: from Pictish warriors and Gaelic kings to Viking seafarers and Anglo-Saxon settlers, each leaving their mark on the McCready line. The

diaspora that carried the name to America, Canada, and Australia continues this tradition of endurance and renewal.

This book, blending documentary history with genetic science, preserves the McCready legacy for future generations. It is not merely a record of names and places, but a testament to resilience, belonging, and continuity. The family's heritage is both ancient and living, a thread woven through two thousand years of history and carried forward today.

Endnotes:

[1] DNA percentages and ancestral breakdown from personal genetic analysis of William B. McCready.
[2] Archaeogenetic match #23: Bronze Age Orkney, Links of Noltland, Westray, Scotland.
[3] Archaeogenetic match #35: Pictish cemetery, Balintore, Scotland, c. 550 AD.
[4] Archaeogenetic match #40: Rosemarkie Cave, Black Isle, Scotland, c. 541 AD.
[5] Archaeogenetic match #64: Lundin Links cemetery, Fife, Scotland, c. 550 AD.
[6] Facial reconstruction of Rosemarkie Man by Dame Sue Black, University of Dundee, 2016.
[7] Rathlin Island genome study, Trinity College Dublin, 2015–2017.
[8] Leabhar Gabhála Éireann (Book of Invasions), medieval Irish mythological text.
[9] R1b haplogroup and M222 subclade research, Trinity College Dublin Y-DNA studies.
[10] Genetic Atlas of Ireland, Irish DNA Research Project, 2017.
[11] MC1R gene and pigmentation traits, Journal of Human Genetics, various studies.
[12] Viking settlement and intermarriage in Ulster, confirmed by recent DNA studies.
[13] MacRaida surname origin and Gaelic nobility references, compiled from surname dictionaries and clan histories.
[14] Historical migration of Dalriata from Ireland to Scotland, c. 500 AD.
[15] Documentary lineage of McCready family in Ayrshire and Wigtownshire, see previous chapters.
[16] Archaeogenetic methodology and genetic distance metrics, standard practices in ancient DNA comparison.