

The Genetic Genealogy of Eldridge: Haplogroup R1b - Sample

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Surname

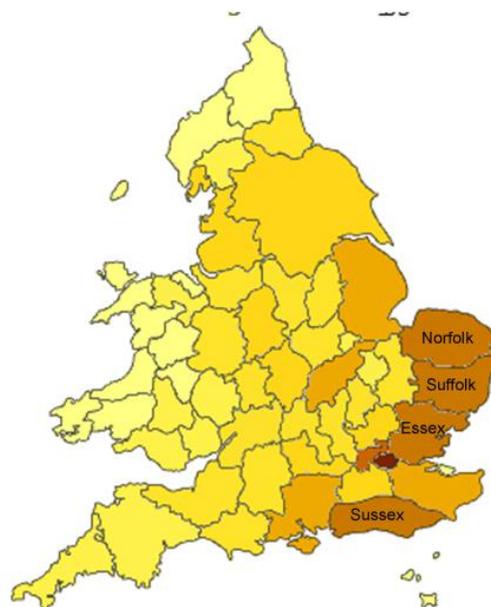
Variations, Meaning and Origin

Eldridge, Eldredge, Eldred, Aldred, Aldridge, Aldrich

Anglo-Saxon in origin, the name has three distinct possible sources, the first and most likely being a derivative of the Middle English personal name "Aldred", which represents a coalescence of two Olde English pre 7th Century personal names: "Ealdroed", composed of the elements "eald" meaning "old", plus "roed", counsel. The second possibility is that the name is topographical, from "residence by an alder grove". The derivation, in this case, is from the Middle English "al(d)rett", from the Olde English "alor", an alder tree.¹

Several tribes were known to exist on the neck of the Cimbric peninsula in northwestern Europe. They were known as Saxons, and one among them was the ancestral Eldred. These Saxons invaded England and drove out the native Britons. The Saxon word for the noun "terrible" was "eldred".²

Surname Distribution



3

¹ Surnamedb.com

² *The Eldred Family*; Eldred, Orville Ward

³ Ancestry.com

The darker the county the higher the population of Eldridges

The Eldridge name with variants has a heavy distribution in the UK counties of Sussex, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. These counties have a strong Saxon influence. Sussex and Essex county names are derived from the settlements of the south Saxons and east Saxons.

Family

Various Allred, Aldridge, Eldred families trace back to Worstead, Norfolk, England. This is a very strong family line with an origin in Norfolk County, England.

With a large number of genetically related individuals having similar surnames there doesn't appear to be any breaks in the Y chromosome line. There are no non-paternal events in this line. Non-paternal events include – adoption, infidelity or aliases.

There are three well documented Eldridge immigrants to New England – William of Yarmouth, Robert of Chatham and Samuel of Cambridge. The genetics show that these immigrants were probably brothers or at the minimum close cousins.

Clan

Genetic markers are analyzed to develop the Clan mapping.



This map represents 95 individuals that are Eldridge clan and related within the past 1200 to 2200 years. They fall into two categories – those that came with and after the Saxon invasion and those that arrived in England much earlier. Note the sparseness of markers in Wales, this indicates that the Eldridge ancestors arrived after the Britons.

This next map represents 23 individuals of Scandinavian ancestry.



These folks are closely related to each other within about 1200 years ago, but more importantly they are related to the Eldridge clan within about 1400-1600 years ago. This period would align with the Saxon invasion of England.

These Scandinavian are also closely related to a group of early Iberians, but the Eldridge ancestors are not as closely related to this group. On the England map there were markers that were distantly related to the Eldridge clan – these pre-Saxon relations are closely related to the Iberian group.

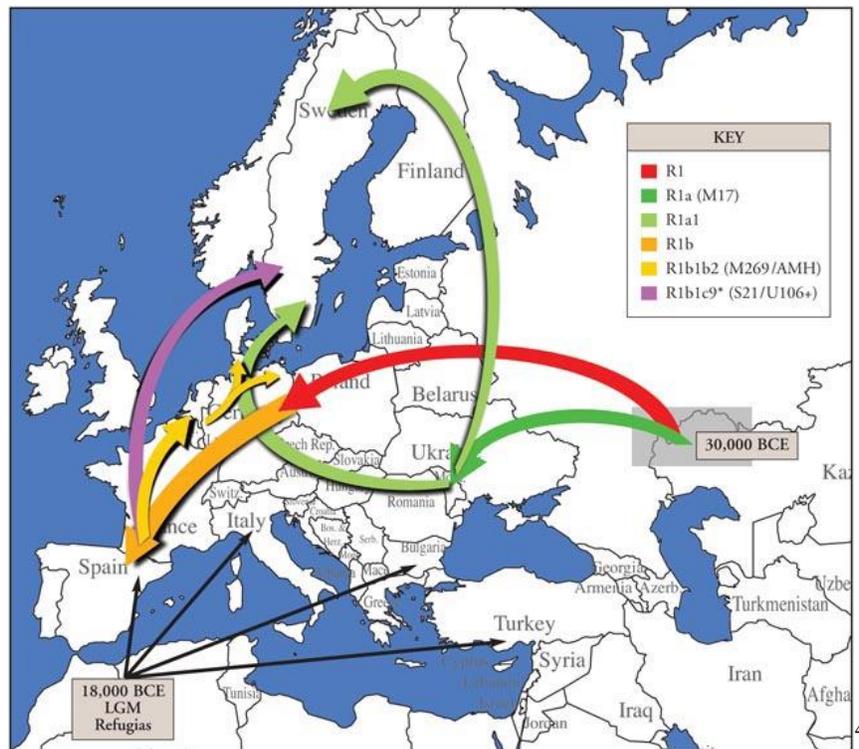
Either the distant Iberian ancestors left some groups behind in England before moving on to Scandinavia only to return during the Saxon invasion or there was an earlier undocumented pre-Saxon invasion of England by the Scandinavians. Although both scenarios could be true.

Scandinavia experienced very seasonable weather after the end of the ice age but then returned to colder periods. As Scandinavia cooled waves of nomads (barbarians) crossed to Germany – one of these groups were the Saxons. The Saxons then invaded the south east of England (4th – 6th century AD). The Eldridge ancestor, Eldred “the terrible”, was among these invaders. There are

a high number of modern day Eldridges that trace their roots to the ancient Saxon county of Norfolk.

Tribe

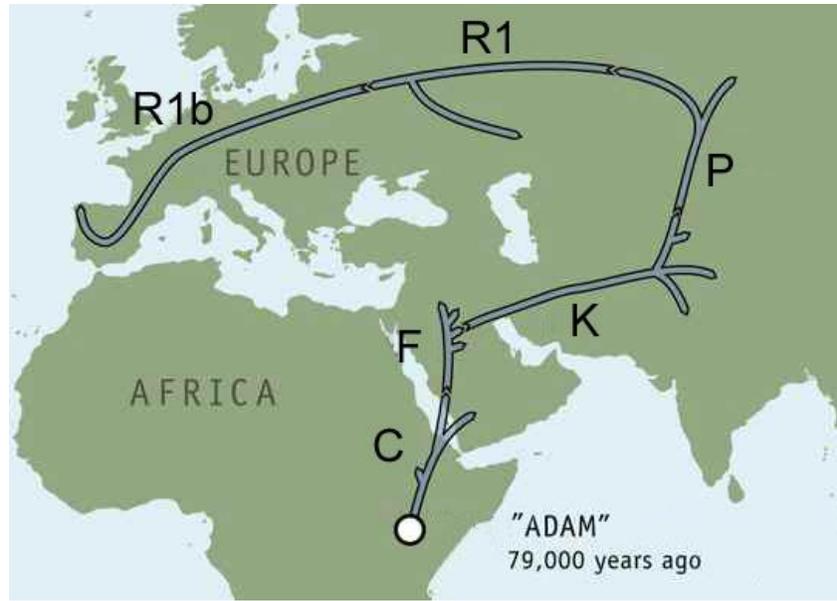
The Eldridge ancestors and other members of the nomadic R1 (red arrow) tribe left Asia about 30 thousand years ago and arrived along the Iberian peninsula somewhere just before or after the end of the last ice age – 10 to 18 thousand years ago. These R1s were separated from the main branch in a refuge, a portion of Europe that was able to sustain life during the ice age. It was in this refuge that the R1b mutation developed. As the ice retreated the R1b Iberians moved in waves up the coast of France and into Great Britain (at the time Great Britain was connected to the mainland by a land bridge). One of these waves roughly 2500 years ago left some relatives in Great Britain then continued on to Scandinavia.



Origin

Haplogroup R originated on the steppes of Central Asia about 30kya. The figure below represents the predecessors of R; P – 40kya, K – 47kya, F – 55kya, C – 60kya, B – 70kya, and finally A – “Adam”

⁴ <http://www.stclairresearch.com/content/pathR1b.html>



Based on DNA that has been tested so far “Adam” was the most recent common male ancestor – he lived approximately 79,000 years ago in East Africa. He was very successful at passing on his genes.

He was not the first human male or the only male alive at the time or the mate of “Eve”.

R1b is the most frequently occurring haplogroup in Europe.

⁵ Genographic Project