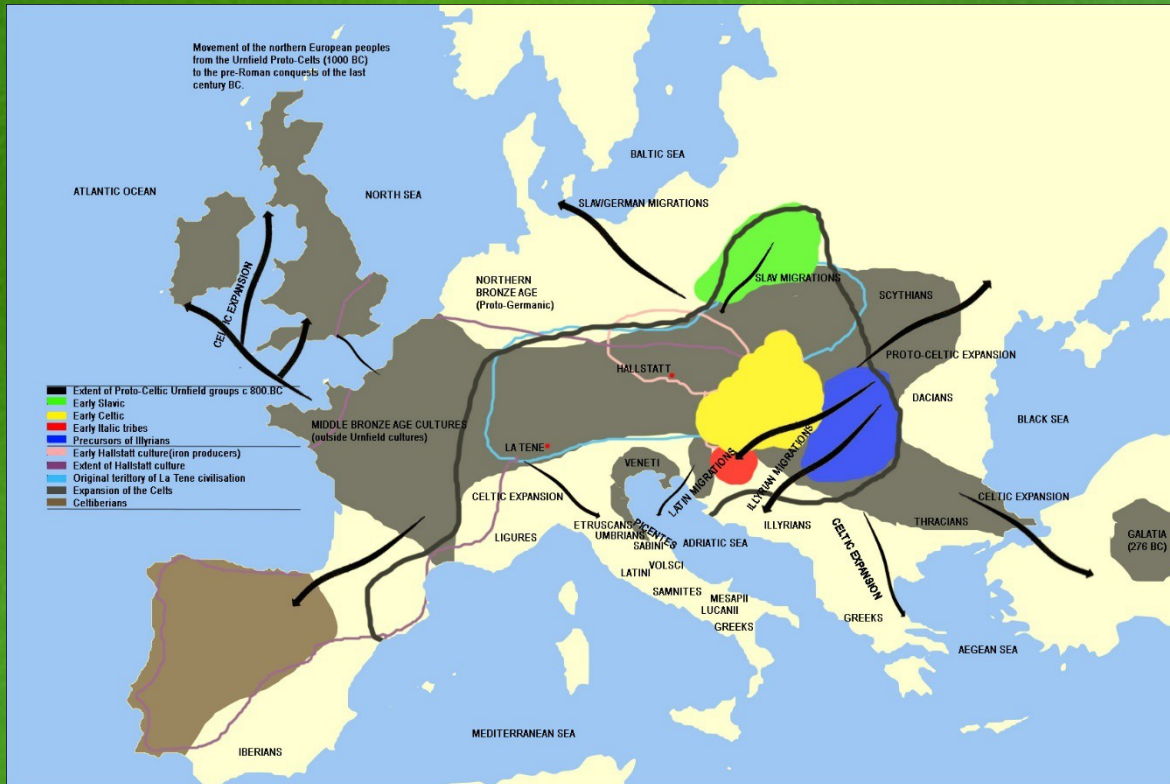


Celtic Language Family

Michelle Waters

Origins



- Oldest named Celts: Hallstatt and La Tène
- Archaeological evidence links to Urnfield culture
- Height of power in 3rd century BC
- Began falling to the Romans
 - Sections of Scotland and the island of Ireland remained free of Roman rule

Celtic Dialects

Continental Celtic

- Celtiberian
- Gaulish
- Galation
- Lepontic
- Noric

Insular Celtic

- Brythonic/Brittonic
 - British
 - Breton
 - **Welsh
 - *Cornish
 - Cumbrian
 - Ivernic
 - Pictish
- Goidelic

Phonology

- Loss of IE /p/
- P-Q split
- Loss of syllabic nasals
- Celtic Lenition

	Dog	His dog	Her dog
Irish	/ku:/	/ə xu:/	/ə ku:/
Scottish Gaelic	/ku:/	/ə xu:/	/ə ku:/
Welsh	/ki:/	/i gi:/	/i xi:/
Breton	/ki:/	/e gi:/	/e xi:/

	Labial	Alvelo-dental	Palatal	Velar	Co-articulated
Stop	b	t d		k g	k ^w g ^w
Nasal	m	n			
Trill		r			
Fricative	φ	s		x	
Approx.		l	j		w

Vowels: i, i: (i:, e:), e, a, a: (a:, o:), o, u, u: (u:, o:)

Diphthongs: ei, eu, oi, ou, ai, au, ui

Decline of the Celtic Languages

- Historically Celtic languages have been repressed by the English monarchy
 - Beginning with Irish as early as 1367
 - Was not just a repression of the Celtic languages
- Development of the Charity School Movement
- National pride in Ireland
- Movement toward cultural diversity and awareness

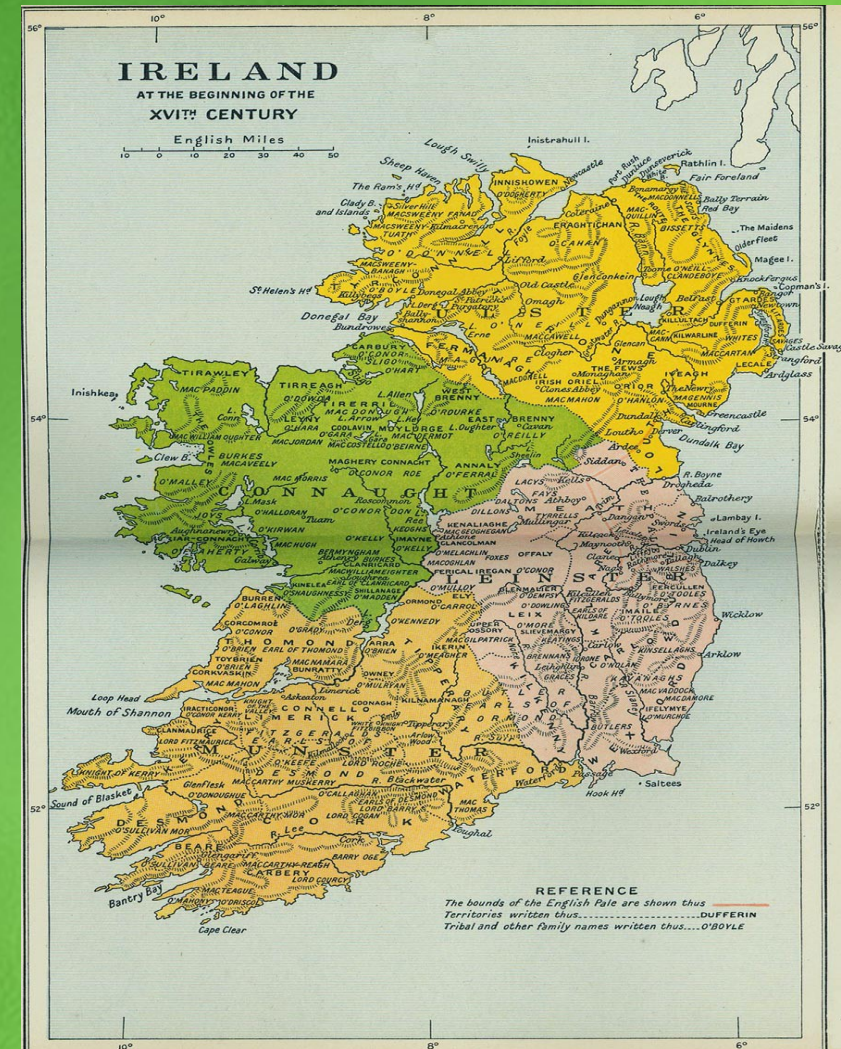
Naming Conventions

Sons

- 1st son -> Paternal grandfather
- 2nd son -> Maternal grandfather
- 3rd son -> Father
- 4th son -> Eldest paternal uncle
- 5th and onward -> Parents' choice

Daughters

- 1st daughter -> Maternal grandmother



Writing System

Ogham

- Attested with Old Irish

Latin Script

- Converted with the introduction of Christianity

Δ	b	c	ḁ	e	f	g	h	i	l	m	n	o	p	r	s	t	u
Δ	b	c	ḁ	e	f	g	h	i	l	m	n	o	p	r	s	t	u
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	l	m	n	o	p	r	s	t	u
aw	bay	kay	dhay	ey	eff	gay	hh	ee	ell	emm	nn	oh	pay	arr	es	thay	ou
Lenited consonants																	
ḃ	ḅ	ḇ	ḉ	ḋ	Ḇ	Ḱ	Ḳ	Ḵ									
bh	ch	dh	fh	gh	mh	ph	sh	th									

aicme b (first aicme)		aicme h (second aicme)			
┆	beith [*betwias] - birch	b [b]	┆	uath - hawthorn	h [y]
┆┆	luis - rowan	l [l]	┆┆	dair [*daris] - oak	d [d]
┆┆┆	fern [*wernā] - alder	f [w]	┆┆┆	tinne - holly	t [t]
┆┆┆┆	sail [*salis] - willow	s [s]	┆┆┆┆	coll [*coslas] - hazel	c [k]
┆┆┆┆┆	nion - ash	n [n]	┆┆┆┆┆	ceirt [*kertā] - apple	q [kʷ]
aicme m (third aicme)		aicme a (forth aicme)			
┆┆┆┆┆┆	muin - vine	m [m]	┆┆┆┆┆┆	ailm - white fir	a [a]
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	gort [*gortas] - ivy	g [g]	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	onn [*osen] - gorse	o [o]
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	ngéadal [*gēddlan] - reed	ng [gʷ]	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	úr - heather	u [u]
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	straif - blackthorn	z [sw]	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	eadhadh - poplar	e [e]
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	ruis - elder	r [r]	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	iodhadh - yew	i [i]
fifth aicme		Other symbols			
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	éabhadh	ea	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	peith - soft birch	p
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	ór - gold	oi	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	eite (feather)	
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	uilleann - elbow	ui	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	marks start of texts	
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	ifin - pine	ia	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	spás - space	
┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	eamhancholl	ae	┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	eite thuathail (reversed feather)	
			┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆┆	marks end of texts	