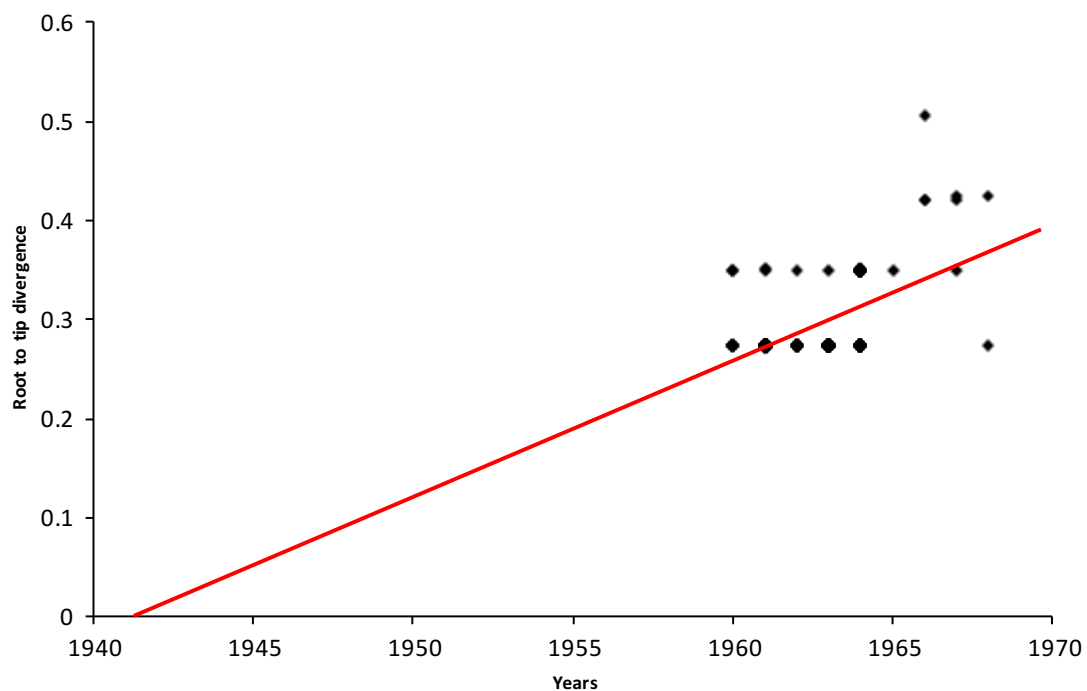


**Additional file 4: Figure S2**

**Posterior support of maximum clade credibility trees of the historic MRSA population based on BEAST analysis (as illustrated in Figure 3B).**

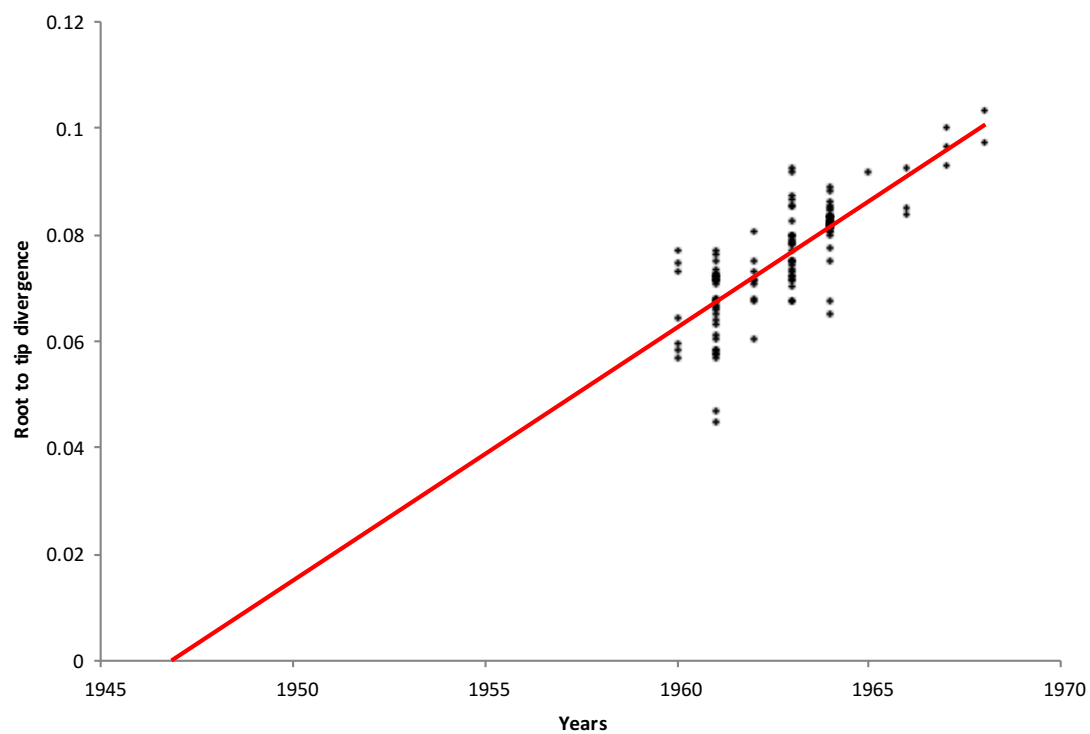
Internal branches are colored according to their posterior support (see figure for key).



### **Additional file 5: Figure S3**

#### **Linear regression of the root-to-tip distances of historic MRSA *SCCmec* type I elements.**

The isolates used (n=122) are those indicated in the Additional file 6: Figure S4 and used for the BEAST analysis (Figure 3B). The analysis was carried out using Path-O-Gen v1.4 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/pathogen/>) with a best-fit root from the maximum likelihood tree and the dates of isolation. The plot contains straight-line best fit of the root-to-tip divergence for each of the isolates, with a correlation coefficient of 0.5408 and an  $R^2$  of 0.2925. The time to most recent common ancestor for the *SCCmec* type I elements in the archaic clone isolates examined is 1941.



#### **Additional file 6: Figure S4**

#### **Linear regression of the root-to-tip distances of the archetypal MRSA clone population used for BEAST analysis.**

The analysis was carried out using Path-O-Gen v1.4 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/pathogen/>) with a best-fit root from the maximum likelihood tree and the dates of isolation. The plot contains straight-line best fit of the root-to-tip divergence for each of the isolates, with a correlation coefficient of 0.7907 and an  $R^2$  of 0.6525. The time to most recent common ancestor for the whole population was estimated to be 1947, consistent with the Bayesian analyses (as illustrated in Figure 3B).