

CLAN QUARTERLY

August
2021

Fitzpatrick Clan Society Newsletter



tá go leor againn
táimid éagsúil
táimid ar cheann
chun freastal
chun leanúint



we are many
we are diverse
we are one
to serve
to follow

Cover Image by Kevin Schafer/Danita Delimont
Mainistir Bhuithe, Lú
Monasterboice, County Louth

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Finte na hÉireann - Clans of Ireland Registered clans:

Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais
Fitzpatrick of the tribe of Cas
Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighin
Fitzpatrick of Leinster
Mac Giolla Phádraig Ulaidh
Fitzpatrick of Ulster
Ó Maol Phádraig Breifne
O'Mulpatrick of Breifne

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<https://www.fitzpatrickclan.org>

CUILEOGA AMA

It is Already | 2021 | August

Welcome to the August clan quarterly for 2021, wherever you are on this beautiful planet. As I sit down to type this newsletter I'm amazed how quickly the year is going by. It's August already; cuileoga ama, as they say – time flies.

And it's a year to this very day that my grandson Quinn was born. Watching him grow from wee bundle into a long and wobbly-legged, gingery-headed little boy has been a delight.

Being born into a world of lock-downs, crazy weather patterns, and political turmoils, I wonder what the future world will look like for Quinn, but like many Irish I can't help but be filled with optimism.

I remember a nonsense-like song from my childhood about a time when the world was in chaos and people were in despair.

Everybody's building ships and boats
Some are building monuments, others are jotting down notes
Everybody's in despair, every girl and boy
But when Quinn the Eskimo gets here
Everybody's gonna jump for joy
(The Mighty Quinn, 1968 - as sung by Manfred Mann)

In a world of turmoil, my hope for your children, grandchildren, and the rest, is that they can draw on their great Fitzpatrick heritage and conquer whatever life brings their way.

This August newsletter brings us an interview with Grangebellew's own Eithne Branigan, most of our usual updates, plus some great news from Clans of Ireland.

Mike Fitzpatrick
Editor

EITHNE

PRONOUNCED EH-NA

The View | From Grangebellew

Here I discuss with Eithne Branigan, a grand-daughter of Bridget Fitzpatrick of Grangebellew, County Louth, some of her family history research.

So, Eithne, when and how did your interest in Genealogy begin?

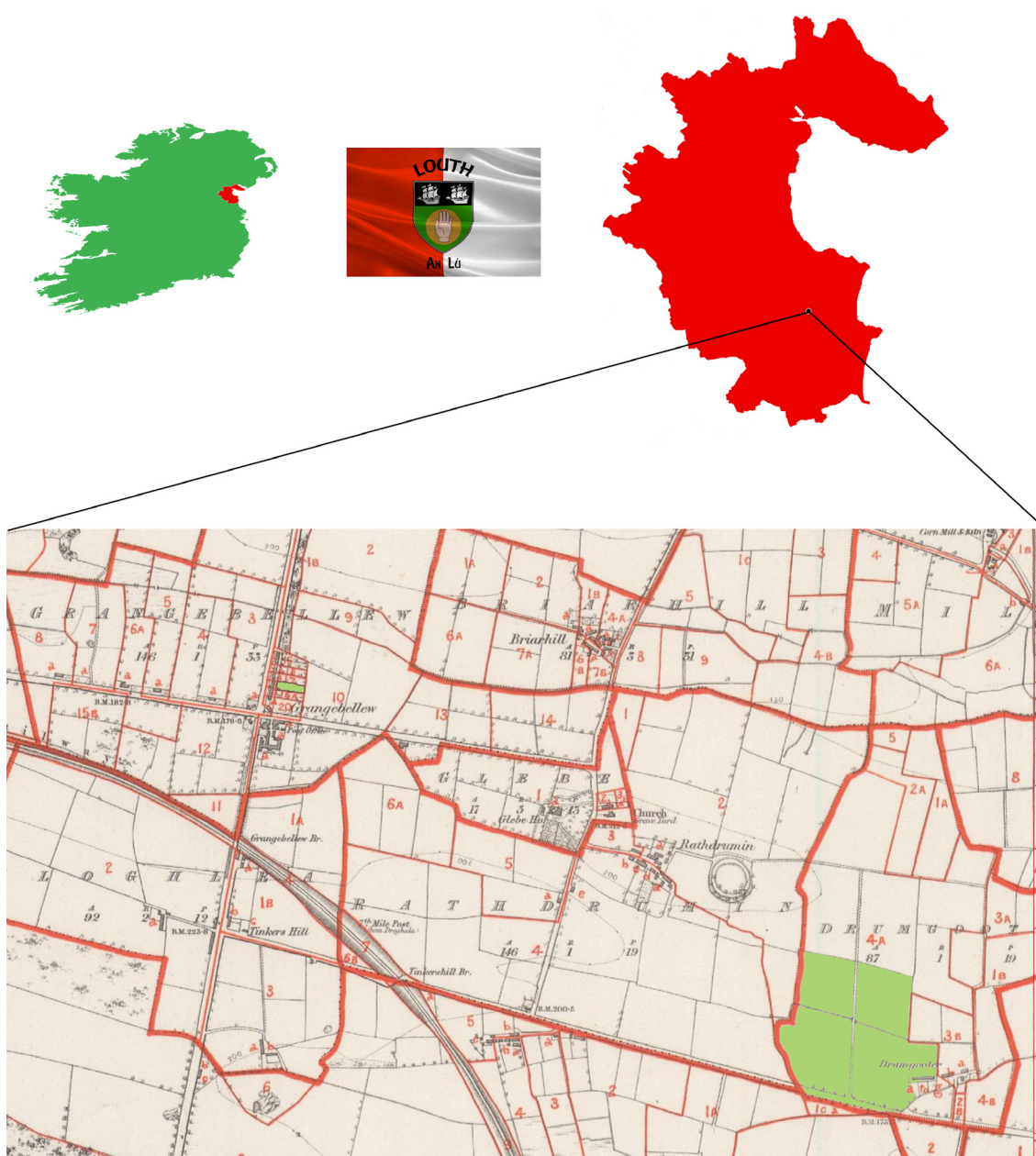
It was 1990 when I attended an extramural night class at University College Dublin, Belfield. At the time, all research was done 'on foot', of course, but with a toddler at my heels not a lot of work was done at the time.

Then, in 1993, I began to look at my maternal line (surname Clarke) in some detail, and my first recording of names began, but again life got in the way, and my notes got filed under 'miscellaneous hobby!'

What about your interest in your grandmother Fitzpatrick's line?

My paternal uncle, Ciaran Branigan, had done extensive research into our Fitzpatrick lineage, again all 'on foot'. He had completed his work about a decade earlier, and although I knew he had printed five copies of his findings in book form, I didn't have a copy. We have become very close in recent years but barely knew one another at the time.

Eventually, I managed to scan a copy of Ciaran's book, and my Fitzpatrick research began in earnest; this was just two years ago in 2019. I had moved to Clogherhead, which is very near to where my paternal family are from – Grangebellew in County Louth. I set up three Facebook groups and contacted my Branigan and Fitzpatrick cousins and my maternal Clarke cousins from Dublin.



From ca. 1855: the location of Peter Fitzpatrick's house in Grangebellew and the property leased by Matthew Fitzpatrick in Drumgooter before he migrated to the United States.

Tell me about your early years growing up in Ireland

I was born in Clones, County Monaghan, the little town that produced Barry McGuigan, the Irish boxer who won the Bantamweight Commonwealth gold medal in 1980 and was the WBA Featherweight world champion – he was nicknamed ‘The Clones Cyclone’.

My father had his first work in Clones after he qualified as a solicitor. Then the family moved to Dublin when I was two or three years old; my father had taken up a position working in the land registry. I moved around quite a lot in my adult life, never quite feeling I was ‘home’. I used to joke and say, ‘I should just get a caravan’.

I lived in London for a short while, and then, for around eight years, I lived very close to my cousin Joan in Warrenpoint, County Down, although I didn’t know her then. Then I moved to Dundalk, County Louth, and, amazingly, arrived in Clogherhead when I met my husband, Stuart.

How does it feel, now that you have returned to your Fitzpatrick roots in County Louth?

I now live just a stone’s throw from Grangebellew, where my family story began. I’ve felt I was ‘home’ ever since then; it must just be in the genes.

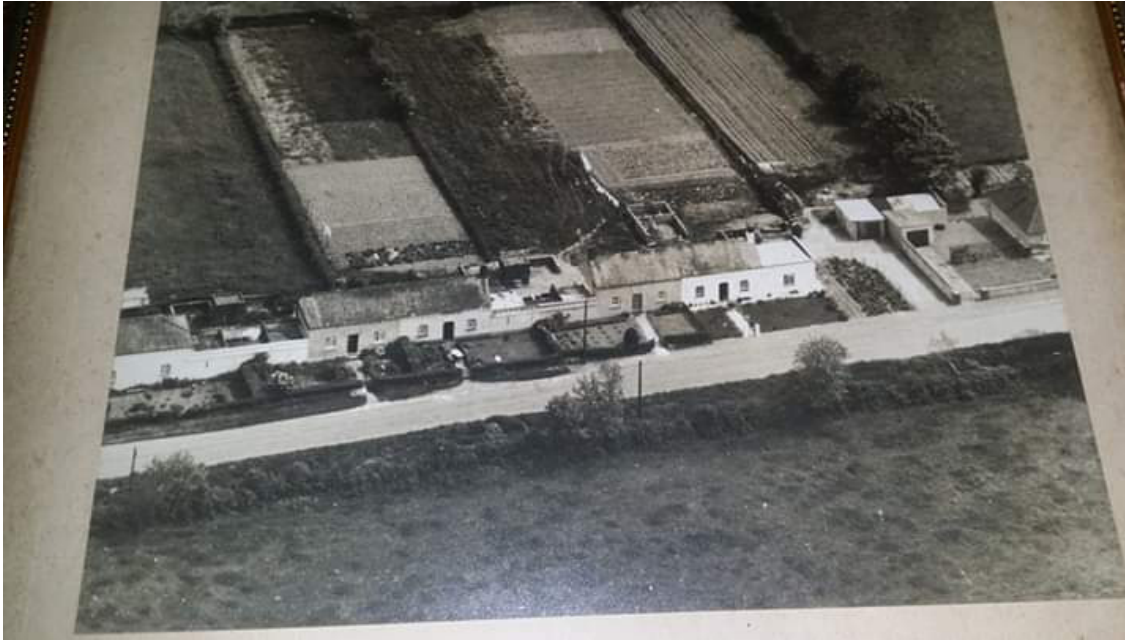
To be right at the centre of the story that I had read 30 years ago is quite magical at times. I can hop in my car, and within 10 minutes I can be outside the house where my great grandparents lived. The school they would have walked to over a hundred years ago is still there, and a little further north, at Dysart, is the graveyard where some of my Fitzpatrick ancestors lie.

My first time there, I found a metal marker near the grave of my great grandmother, Alice McKeon. My uncle Ciaran hadn’t known about it before then. We’re not 100-percent sure which grave is hers and which is that of her husband, Patrick Fitzpatrick. But to the side is the grave-stone of their son, Hugh.

Next page:

An aerial photo of the houses at Grangebellew from the 1960s. The tiny figure in one of the gardens is probably Eithne’s great uncle, Joe Fitzpatrick. Joe’s daughter, May, is a hearty lady marching toward a century of years; she lives in Termonfeckin, just a mile or so away from Eithne.

The metal grave-marker of Alice McKeon Fitzpatrick.



And now your family history research has connected you to many living relatives.

Life since my move to County Louth has been hectic in the nicest way, and there are never enough hours in the day to tick off the jobs on all the lists I have and hit the goals I would like to achieve. I have become quite close to several cousins, and I have probably found a best friend in one of those, so genealogy has changed my life, and that's not even mentioning the long-lost relations united and reunited, but that's another tale altogether!

It seems to me that genealogy has become more than a 'miscellaneous hobby'.

To say that I became obsessed with genealogy since then would be a bit of an understatement. I couldn't begin to count the number of names that I have recorded, and I added the new generations to Uncle Ciaran's work from 2002. I have also worked on my husband's UK family history (surname Turnbull) during the last two years, but I find the UK research more tricky than the Irish, which has free-to-access websites. I am also working on a Branigan cousin's relationship with John F Kennedy, but this is difficult because some of the records I'm interested in are missing.

What Fitzpatrick projects are you working on at the moment?

I'm writing a piece for the clan Journal about my seven great uncles who all signed up for the Great War, and all but one lived to tell the tale – and what a tale they told. Unfortunately, my great uncle Tom Fitzpatrick died in France on 8th October 1916, aged 32 years. As he had signed up in Canada, I was able to access his war record quite easily. I hope to visit the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France someday, and other cousins have expressed an interest in going too, so maybe it will turn into a Fitzpatrick trip.

Tell us about your Fitzpatrick lineage and how the Y-DNA project has helped you make connections.

Thanks to the availability of documents on the internet, I could tidy up some loose ends that Ciaran hadn't been able to do when he was working on the family history. And some interesting links were found to connect other people involved in the Y-DNA project.

After you heard about my Fitzpatrick ancestry page and made contact, my newly found second cousin Billy Fitzpatrick from Drogheda came onboard with the Y-DNA project. Then we knew where we fitted into the maze of Fitzpatricks, with close matches to three Fitzpatrick lines in the US and one in the UK. None of the lines understood how they connected with my Grangebellew line.

Billy most closely matched James Fitzpatrick, the father of Maureen (Reeny) Fitzpatrick, as well as Ronald Fitzpatrick, who both live in the US. Reeny knew that her Fitzpatricks were from County Louth, but Ronald had no idea where in Ireland his Fitzpatricks were from.

So what did you uncover about the nature of the connection with Reeny and Ronald?

Matthew Fitzpatrick, the farming ancestor of Reeny and James, had settled with his family in Oswego County, New York State, in 1848, but unravelling his lineage was complex because there were several Fitzpatrick families in close proximity and many were of similar age and had the same given-names.

Ronald's ancestor, Patrick, was a tailor who had migrated to the United States ca. 1840. He settled near the banks of the Hudson River in downtown Albany, where he and his wife raised their US-born children.

The Y-DNA pointed to Matthew, Patrick, and the ancestor of Billy, Peter Fitzpatrick, being brothers. It felt like a great breakthrough to find the ancestral connection to other clan members, and the people really came to life, especially when I saw the photos that James and Reeny sent on.

Matthew and Patrick left Ireland, why was that?

Lord Bryan Bellew's article in the Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society presents priceless information from the Drumgooter townland rental rolls, Drumgooter being less than one mile west of Grangebellew.

The article illustrates the devastating effects of the famine on the Drumgooter tenants; Bryan notes that the population fell from 57 in 1839 to 28 just 10 years later, with 24 individuals migrating to the United States.

It was Matthew, the oldest brother, who held the lease for 14 acres in Drumgooter from Edward, the 2nd Baron Bellew; his brother Patrick sub-leased his house from Matthew. Matthew would have felt the pressure to stay farming the land that had been in his family since at least 1748, but eventually it became too difficult and he followed Patrick to the United States.

A cousin of Matthew and Patrick, Charles Fitzpatrick, leased 13 acres in Drumgooter, but he and his family also left for the United States in the 1840s.

In contrast, Peter leased only a house in Grangebellew, also from Baron Bellew; being a younger sibling and without having the pressure of a land lease Peter probably found it less arduous to survive through the famine years, and he was more or less happy to remain.

Population of Drumgooter 1839, with later observations

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Later Observations</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Fitzpatrick, Charles	Farmer & labourer	1			66		Got this acre from his father has no lease
Fitzpatrick, Sally	Wife				70	Dead	
Fitzpatrick, William	Son				40		
Fitzpatrick, Catherine	Daughter				34	Dead	
Fitzpatrick, Margaret	Daughter				24		
Fitzpatrick, Charles	Farmer	13			23	This family went to America	Middling crop getting a new lease
Fitzpatrick, Rose	Wife				23		
Fitzpatrick, John	Brother				18		
Fitzpatrick, Mary	Sister				15		
Fitzpatrick, Catherine	Sister				14		
Fitzpatrick, Patrick	Tailor				23	This family went to America	Has his home from his brother Matthew. His mother lives with him
Fitzpatrick, Mary	Mother				56		
Fitzpatrick, Catherine	Sister				21		
Fitzpatrick, Bridget	Sister				14		
Fitzpatrick, Matthew	Farmer	14			31	This family went to America	
Fitzpatrick, Anne	Wife				26		
Fitzpatrick, John	Son of Matthew				11		
Fitzpatrick, Mary	Daughter				9		
Fitzpatrick, Jane	Sister				15		

An excerpt of the 1839 rental-roll for Drumgooter, County Louth. The later observations are from 1849.

Matthew and his family settled in the township of Constantia, on the banks of Oneida Lake ca. 1848. A Nicholas Fitzpatrick and his family lived in the same area, and they were as yet undetermined cousins, or similar, of Matthew.

Matthew died sometime between 1855 and 1860. His son, John and family settled in Cleveland village, and they are recorded as living there in the 1875 New York State census, along with John's mother, Anne Murphy Fitzpatrick.



Map of Oswego County, New York, published in 1867; a restored reproduction by Phil Cardamone.

In this case the Drumgooter rental has proven invaluable.

The rental rolls are important because there is a significant gap in the Parish records between 1800 and 1830, which makes it difficult to assign relationships with confidence, especially when there are multiple uses of the same given-name.

I found a similar gap in records while I was doing my Kennedy research in County Wexford. There is a story of a parish priest being buried with a volume of births, deaths and marriages in his coffin around the same time (1830), so perhaps for some reason this was considered a good idea at the time.

With that mystery solved, what is next?

I still have a long list of records to research and have names of DNA cousins I know I connect to who I haven't made contact with yet. On the Y-DNA side there is Mary in New York, and Ian in Cheshire. When I find the time I will, hopefully, find out how we are related, as Reeny, Ronald and myself did.

Also near the top of my 'to do list' is to try and discover the link with our branch to the County Fermanagh Fitzpatricks, which showed up in a recent family DNA test. So far I've been unable to find the connection.

I'm on a bit of a slow-burner because Covid has put paid to a certain amount of this kind of research as records offices, such as the GRO in Dublin, have been closed to the public.

And are there any plans for a reunion of County Louth Fitzpatricks?

We had planned a gathering of 'Grangebellew Fitzpatricks' for April 2020, which we postponed - and we also postponed the re-scheduled 2021 event. The drinks will taste all the better when we do get together, hopefully next year!

Editorial comment

It was June 2018 and my attention had fallen on three members of Y-DNA project who were closely related but who had no sure knowledge of exactly where in Ireland their Fitzpatrick origins lay.

Based on Y-DNA results from another, by then deceased, Fitzpatrick I had an idea it might be County Louth, but those DNA results were too basic to afford certainty. I stalked ancestry.com for Fitzpatricks who traced to County Louth and I found Reeny. As Eithne's puts it, 'the rest is history'.



Above: Ceann Chlochair Lú, Clogherhead, County Louth.
Below: Oneida Lake, New York, at Verona Beach.



THE BEST ON FACEBOOK

FB | Fitzpatricks



This Mass Rock was a gift from a Canon Fitzpatrick and it was met at Carfin by a large body of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians who escorted it before the existing Shrine of St. Patrick. Scattered ac... [See More](#)

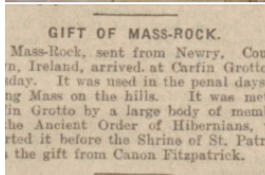
Track(s) of the month No 10 : **Michael Fitzpatrick** with A Day at the Races/Whelan's Auld Sow/Paddy's Trip to Scotland/New House.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vaun_NSHuY



YOUTUBE.COM

Light Jigs:/ A Day at the Races/Whelan's Auld Sow/Paddy's Trip to Scotland/New House



Artist of the month No 16 : **Margaret Fitzpatrick** .

"Maggy has been working as a professional artist for over 35 years. After graduating with Honours from Reigate School of Art and Design, she worked as a freelance Heraldic Artist, Illustrator and Calligrapher for more than ten years; her clients included the College of Arms in London, the Inns of Court and the London Livery Companies, plus many businesses and corporations as well as private individuals. Examples of her work h... [See More](#)

Posted on The American Wake film Facebook page earlier this month, in respect to Máirtín Mac GiollaPháiric of Inis Mór.

Coincidentally the grandmother of Emer Sexton, the actor who played Nora in the film, is a Fitzpatrick from Leathráthí Laragh, Co an Chabháin/Cavan.

"Máirtín Fitzpatrick's mother was the first and only postmistress of Inis Mór during the 1950s.

Despite this, for the role of the postmaster in our film, we casted a local from the island named Ronan because he ha... [See More](#)

On this day : **Neil James Fitzpatrick** (1934 - 28 July 2005). The actor starred in mainly theatre shows and at one point in Australian history, he was the face of Australian theatre. He also appeared in the tv programme Neighbours.
Family research indicates that his grandfather was from Co Carlow.
https://cdn.images.express.co.uk/_next/Neil-Fitzpatrick...



WEB EVENTS

2021

One day soon | not sure when

Our first ever Web Events, which covered DNA for Genealogy and the Fitzpatrick DNA Project, took place in February. If you missed them, they are viewable on the Clan Society YouTube channel:

[DNA for Genealogy - Fitzpatrick DNA Project Part 1](#)

[DNA for Genealogy - Fitzpatrick DNA Project Part 2](#)

We had scheduled Ian Fitzpatrick's presentation on the settlement of Irish in the Americas in the 17th and 18th centuries for June, but Ian got side-tracked researching and writing, along with me, our recent article (see later) on haplotype R-BY140757 Branans.

I can say this, though, Ian's presentation is now complete, and we will post it to the Fitzpatrick Clan Society soon enough, probably by the end of August.

For now we have decided to dispense with trying to host our presentations as live Zoom events. It's not a trivial exercise to get people from all over the globe present in the same virtual room at the same time!

I am working on presentations, that draw on our other Journal articles, that will be posted to YouTube sometime this year – I'm just not exactly sure when. The remainder of the schedule for 2021 will be something like:

The Similar-Sounding Surnames of Haplotype R-BY140757 Part I (September 2021)

The Mac Giolla Phádraig Osraí 1384-1534 AD Part I (November 2021)

The Mac Giolla Phádraig Osraí 1384-1534 AD Part II (December 2021)



Finte na hÉireann News

The Fitzpatrick Clan Society is thrilled to announce the registration of two more Fitzpatrick clans with Finte na hÉireann (Clans of Ireland).

Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais (Fitzpatrick/Mac Gilpatrick of the tribe of Cas) and Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighin (Fitzpatrick/Mac Gilpatrick of Leinster) join Mac Giolla Phádraig Ulaidh (Fitzpatrick/Mac Gilpatrick of Ulster) and Ó Maol Phádraig Breifne (Fitzpatrick/O'Mulpatrick of Breifne) among the Clans of Ireland.

Our Dalcassian Fitzpatricks have been readily identified by their distinct genetic markers, which show are an ancient surname clan under haplotype L21...Z253...L226, hence sharing a common ancestry with Ó Briain Tuamhain (O'Brien of Thomond) and Ó Cinnéide Tuamhain (O'Kennedy of Thomond).

Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais probably arose in south-west Ireland ca. 1000-1200 AD, but with centuries of upheaval and people-movement across Ireland it is of little surprise to find some members who trace their more recent origins to Co.Galway,

Co.Mayo, and Co.Roscommon. We are working through historical records to see if we can discover a more exact location for where the clan surname progenitor arose.

Similarly it has only been via Y-DNA research that our Fitzpatricks who trace to Co.Kildare, Co.Louth and Co.Down, and are haplotype L21...Z255, have learnt that their shared pre-ca. 1600 origins are in Leinster.

Thirteenth to sixteenth-century references to this ancient surname clan suggest they were probably sometimes domiciled at Ghráinseach Mac Giolla Phádraig (Grange Mac Gilpatrick) in western Kildare.

We will feature more about our two latest clan additions on the Clan Society website in a few weeks.

The Fitzpatrick Clan Society is what our name suggests – we are a society of Fitzpatrick clans, one under our shared surname, but also distinct.

We accept all Fitzpatricks as members, and those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to define their surname clan origins will have our support should they seek recognition among the Clans of Ireland.

THE JOURNAL

2021

So much material | not enough hours

By some incredible feat we actually managed to publish our first article for 2021 on schedule, this June just gone. Our next articles for 2021 are delayed because they involve much more work than initially anticipated – we are still hopeful to have Part I of our article on Mac Giolla Phádraig clerics, and Part II of our article on Colonial Fitzpatricks, published before the end of the year.

[The Similar-Sounding Surnames of Haplotype R-BY140757](#) doesn't give away too much in its title, so we fully understand if you may not have ventured to look at it. And if you did sneak a peek you would see the material is quite heavy going, with a word count that runs to almost 15,000, plus there are 143 references. We understand that may have been a bit off-putting.

But we consider it an important work, and not just for Fitzpatricks, for several reasons, that we summarise here.

1. We continue our myth busting, and we continue to expose the major errors in Fitzpatrick histories, such as those of Carrigan and Shearman.

2. Once again we demonstrate how Y-DNA connections can help make sense of Fitzpatrick histories. The article focusses mostly on Bran-an-like surnames, and the false-belief that R-A1499...BY140757 'Branans', who are genetic matches with R-A1499 Fitzpatricks, share common ancestry at Cearbhall, King of Osraí (843-888 AD).

3. Rather, we demonstrate that the R-BY140757 'Branans', considered by some to descend from the O'Braonáin Uí Dhuach (O'Brennan of Idough), and said to be an Osraí clan, do not and are not.

4. In fact, the Ó Braonáin Uí Dhuach were an Uí Failghi tribe, whereas R-BY140757 'Branans' are more likely to descend from the de Braham of Suffolk. The key figure in the appearance of R-BY140757 pedigrees in Éire is Sir Robert de Braham, who was Sheriff of Kilkenny ca. 1250 AD.

FITZPATRICK OLYMPIANS

Faster | Higher | Stronger | Together

Participating at the Olympic Games is considered one of the pinnacles of sporting achievement; one that only the very elite ever attain to. So, to our Fitzpatrick Olympians of Tokyo 2021 – congratulations just for being there.

Auckland's Theresa Fitzpatrick struck gold with the New Zealand women's Rugby 7s. I watched the final game broadcast live and my heart was racing because it was a very close affair. It was Theresa's pass under huge pressure that sealed the win!

Connor Fitzpatrick, from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and Roland Varga, finished a very creditable sixth in the men's canoe double 1000 m final, and in doing so set a new Canadian record time! Connor is still pretty young so here's hoping there will be podium finish at the 2024 games in Paris.

'Hockeyroos', Savannah and Madison Fitzpatrick, from Cabarita Beach in New South Wales were part of the Australian women's team that were unstoppable through pool play, only to fall in a shock quarter-final defeat to India. Here's hoping the sisters will bounce back stronger.

Ratoath born Ian Fitzpatrick doubtless shared the sadness of his nation that things didn't go better for the Irish men's Rugby 7s. But Ian's stated Rugby 7s ambition was to 'to compete at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo' – so there we go!



[Golden-girl Theresa Fitzpatrick](#)



[Connor Fitzpatrick putting on the power](#)
[Savannah and Madison at the hockey stadium in Tokyo](#)
[Ian Fitzpatrick showing his pace](#)