

Nuacht agus tuairimí

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: Irish at the service of the King Henry VIII
by Lucas d'Heere, ca. 1575

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Slán le 2025, fáilte roimh 2026

Goodbye 2025 | Hello 2026

2026 is now on us, and while most of you will have been enjoying the end-of-the-year feasting indoors, well out of the cold, I have just returned from a two-week break at Waihi Beach and Martinborough, in New Zealand's North Island. Eating a roast Christmas dinner outside under a blazing sun is something I will never get accustomed to.

But wherever you were during the festive season, I hope you had a peaceful and joyous time. The Executive of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society and the co-admins of the DNA project put together a short seasonal greetings clip, which you can view here:

[Nollaig Shona](#)

And yes, the clip was generated by AI. For some reason, I was given a gap between my two upper front teeth, but the rest of us look good, and all a bit younger.

2025 was another strong year for the Fitzpatrick Clan Society.

There was continued good membership growth, most clearly evidenced by the Facebook group and the DNA project.

We continued our good relations with Clans of Ireland and warmly welcomed a new organisation, the Council of Irish Clans.

The website underwent a revamp, and our publications continue to inspire and impress, attracting a large readership.

You can read about all those matters below.

Is mise les meas

Mike Fitzpatrick Editor

FITZPATRICK MYTHOLOGY

John Fitzpatrick|of Clonturk

‘Fitzpatrick Mythology’ was a term first used by John Hylas-Smith in his book of the same name, in which the author connects his ancestry, via his mother Lady Mary (Tansy) Isabel Fitz-Patrick Constable Smith, back to the most well-known Mac Giolla Phádraig of Ossory line, that of the barons of Upper Ossory, and on to Adam of Biblical fame. A little ‘tongue in cheek’, Hylas-Smith told me a few years back, in reference to the ancient connections.

Still, there can be no doubting the strength of the pedigree claim of Lady Tansy, authoritatively back to the John Fitzpatrick of Clonturk, Dublin, who is found resident there from the late seventeenth century, and who descended from the First Baron of Upper Ossory, Barnaby Fitzpatrick.

The pedigree was confirmed in 1913 by Sir Neville Wilkson, Ulster King of Arms 1908-1940, but more importantly, the family had received a much earlier qualification by Sir Richard Carney, Ulster King of Arms 1655-1660 and 1683-1698. In the introduction to his ‘Genealogy and Ensign of Mr John Fitzpatrick of Clonturk’, Carney provided an insightful narrative, which is reproduced for the first time here.

‘The Genealogy and Ensigns Armorial of Mr John Fitzpatrick of Clonturk in the County of Dublin, son of Mr George Fitzpatrick, who at the Battle of Aughrim and sieges of the Fort of Kingsale, distinguished himself in an extraordinary manner through his great skill in artillery and gunnery, with the utmost courage and conduct. [The] said George was son to Nicholas, son to James, brother to Thady, son of Florence, of whom his noble ancestors the following ancient and authentic annals give account.

To all and singular as well noblemen as gentlemen to whom these presents shall come. Sir Richard Carney Knight, Ulster King of Arms of all Ireland, sendeth greeting.

Know ye that it hath been the ancient custom of all well governed Kingdoms, that the deserving acts of worthy persons should be recommended to posterity by sundry monuments of their good deserts, amongst which the chieftest and most usual hath been the bearing of signs and tokens on shields, commonly called Arms, which were diversely distributed according to the quality of the persons meriting the same, in the intent that such worthy men as have been eminently serviceable, to their Prince or Country, either in civil or military

employments, may not only receive due honour in their own lives, but that the same may remain as an hereditary mark of honour to their posterity forever.

And whereas the most honorable family of Fitzpatrick of Clonturk in the County of Dublin is descended from Sir Barnaby Fitzpatrick, afterward Baron of Upper Ossory. This most ancient and princely family is descended from Heremon, the first monarch of the Milesian race in Ireland and, after they had assumed the surname of Fitzpatrick, they were for many ages Kings of Ossory in the Province of Leinster, from whom in a direct male line descended Bernard Fitzpatrick, who on the eleventh of June 1541, [the] thirty-third year of Henry VIII, was created the Baron of Upper Ossory.

Sir Barnaby Fitzpatrick, son of the said Bernard, and ancestor to the said Florence, as companion and favourite to King Edward the Sixth, as may appear from records and many kind letters still extant, written by that young monarch to the said Sir Barnaby in the year 1551 whilst he served as volunteer in France under Henry II against the Emperor, where he distinguished himself by his great courage, valour, and conduct.

And whereas [it is] also is my duty appertaining to my place, to register and notice to posterity, the excellent actions and qualities.

24 June AD 1686, Richard Carney Ulster



CLANS OF IRELAND

Finte na hÉireann | Update



My term as a Director of Clans of Ireland ended in 2025, coinciding with the retirement of Gearóid Ó Ceallaigh as Cathaoirleach. The Fitzpatrick Clan Society wishes the new Cathaoirleach, Michael O’Crowley, all the best during his term of leadership.

In 2026, there will be some changes to the Fitzpatrick clans registered with Clans of Ireland. O’Mulpatrick of Breifne (Matt Fitzpatrick and co.) will not renew their registration with Clans of Ireland. We now consider there to be at least four O’Mulpatrick clans of Breifne, all quite unrelated. With confidence, we have now defined one clan as the O’Mulpatrick of Tullyhaw, and another as the O’Mulpatrick of East Breifne.

We are still working on naming the two other O’Mulpatrick clans who have significant ties to Breifne. Whether or not the O’Mulpatrick of Tullyhaw and the O’Mulpatrick of East Breifne apply for registration with Clans of Ireland is over to those clans.

Fitzpatrick of Ulster (Bernard Fitzpatrick and co.) will also not renew. The assignment of a single clan to such a broad geographic area is not appropriate. Such an understanding marks a maturity in how Fitzpatricks have come to understand themselves. Today, we understand ‘Fitzpatrick of Ulster’ means the four O’Mulpatrick of Breifne clans, the Mac Giolla Phadraig of County Down, and maybe some other, yet unrealised, clans.

It’s a poignant moment, and I still have fond memories of my 2018 discussions with the then Cathaoirleach, Maura O’Gara, and how we could approach registering Fitzpatrick clans with Clans of Ireland. ‘Fitzpatrick of Ulster’ was actually Maura’s suggestion, since the authoritative surname scholar Edward McLysaght used that defining term.

Hence, in terms of registration with Clans of Ireland, it is the end of an era for the O’Mulpatrick of Breifne and the Fitzpatrick of Ulster, both of whom were benefactors of Clans of Ireland.

Gearóid Ó Ceallaigh’s valedictory is summarised, as follows: This letter may cause you some sense of relief as my term as Cathaoirleach Fhinte na hÉireann ~ Chair of Clans of Ireland draws to a close. I am going to retire at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on April 5th.

It is clear that there is now a core group of directors in place who understand the fundamental principles and aims of our organisation and how our members, the clans and historic families of Ireland, through their historic links to places and ancient ancestry, are entitled to membership of our organisation. This Board of Directors, with a new Cathaoirleach, will lead the organisation into its next chapter. The organisation is now focused on furthering the development of an increasingly scholarly understanding of who we are and where we have come from. Membership is for those clans who wish to embrace this and actively participate in its furtherance.

Clans of Ireland, while being an inclusive organisation, has not set out to increase membership numbers over recent years, simply for the sake of growing in size. The organisation’s increasing popularity can be ascribed to an unequivocal focus on our core values. Applications for membership arrive, more often than not, from romantics (a wonderful virtue in itself) who yearn to be something that historical fact has not proven, or from the more imaginative applicant who has sought to create a version of their history that is too good to be true. Our Registration Committee, comprised of representatives of our existing members, has a mandate from the Board to protect the integrity of membership of Clans of Ireland.

Clans of Ireland is open to membership from families who, by now, have unequivocally been historically and geographically linked to Ireland for more than 333 years, at least since before the Treaty of Limerick was ratified on the 24th of February 1692. The over-arching majority of our member organisations comprise of clans or finte of Gaelic-Celtic ancestry and for this reason our principal attention is directed toward the associated Medieval and late Medieval interests. I have taken the opportunity to ask historian and genealogist, Dr Paul McCotter, to address us at the 2025 Cultural Summit on how the majority of the people of Gaelic Ireland were linked to their own geography. The theme of the Summit is Association between People and Place in Medieval Irish Society. I also asked Dr McCotter to lecture us on how the generality of people were connected with the túath from sociological, economic and political perspectives, as well as addressing the relationship between place names and, where it exists, the kin group that was associated with that particular place. I expect this to be a seminal lecture for both our member organisations’ memberships and the interested public at large.

This key-note lecture will be given on Saturday April 5th as part of the programme for the 2025 Cultural Summit, which is again being held at the Stephen’s Green Club in Dublin. On the previous day, Friday April 4th we will tour Glendalough Monastic Site and nearby Glenmalure in County Wicklow. [Please indicate to Ms Kieran O’Dowd if you wish to avail of this bus tour or attend any or all of the Cultural Summit.

There are two lectures during the tour, the first of which is to be given by Luke McNerney (see list of directors below) on Early Irish Monasticism. After a pub lunch, Dr. Emmett O’Byrne who is both Ceann Fine Ó Broin Laighean and a historian with a particular interest in his clan has kindly agreed to lecture us, linking the historic association between the O’Byrne clan with both Glenmalure, the place, and the Battle of Glenmalure. Given that when one hears the name O’Byrne in Ireland, it is most likely identifiable with general area that became shired as County Wicklow (the last county in Ireland to be shired) and so the Ó Broin Laighean is a great example of Association between People and Place in Medieval Irish Society. This field lecture promises to be of great interest for most of us, as it was a pivotal battle during a crucial period as the Gaelic Era.

Glendalough was the monastic centre for St Kevin and his contemporaneous followers. However, it was also the monastery where the native to the area, St Laurence O’Toole, was abbot before his appointment as the second Archbishop of Dublin back in the 12th century, at the onset of the Norman period. Given that the Diocesan Cathedral of the united diocese of Dublin and Glendalough is also the Clans of Ireland seat at Christ Church, it is fitting that Dean Dermot Dunne, who many members will already know, has offered to recount on Saturday, the interesting story, titled ‘Saints and Sinners’, of when the reliquary of Lawrence O’Toole / Lorcán Ó Tuathal was stolen and how it was eventually retrieved, providing a connection between the medieval and modern.

Following Dr McCotter’s lecture on Saturday, the winner of the 2024 Essay Competition, Ms Cora Crampton, will conduct a presentation of her essay. The Essay is titled: ‘Three women of the O’Byrnes: perspectives on Gaelic political marriage in the sixteenth century’ and further ties in with our tour of the O’Byrne country on Friday. On Saturday, the day begins with our Annual General Meeting, which I strongly advocate that you fully participate in. You and another member of your clan are not only entitled to vote but have a responsibility under early Irish law, to fully represent your kin group (fine) at such public occasions as the Cruinniú Cinn Bhliana Fhinte na hÉireann.

It should never be lost sight of the fact that the Cultural Summit has grown from being the Annual General Meeting to being the two-day gathering of ceannairí that it is today. However, it remains the case that the high-level decisions about the management and direction of the organisation are collectively made by all of us at the AGM before being implemented in detail by the Board of Directors and the Committees.

This leads me to the often previously stated reality that we need each clan or member organisation to have a representative on one or more committees or even on the Board of Directors. This introduces the parallel facts that these representatives should reflect the membership of Clans of Ireland as an international organisation and in parallel that these representatives should reflect Clans of Ireland as a deeply rooted Irish cultural organisation. There is an indisputable responsibility on all of us who hold ourselves out to be leaders of our individual historic kindred groups to not only have an ingrained understanding of the historic significance of what it is to be a fine or a derbfine, but there should also be a clear general perception among the public that this is the case. Clans of Ireland is the only reliable and recognised authority that authenticates and registers Irish clans and its Board of Directors should be analogous of its constituent members. It should be both truly Irish in attitude and yet typify the international dimension of its member organisations’ membership.

With a week to go to the Feast Day of my local Saint Senan on March 8th and from there just four weeks to the Annual General Meeting, I would implore you, for the sake of the vibrancy and democratic representativeness of our great cultural organisation, to consider putting yourself or one of your clan forward to become a member of a committee. “Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine” (Under the shelter of each other, people survive) is an old Irish seanfhocal or proverb that advocates cooperation. The more people that help in the management of the organisation, the less that is required of each and you will undoubtedly be aware of this from the management of your own clan.

I will finish by opining that modernity is certainly popular, maybe no less than it has always been, but it is antiquity that preserves tradition. Antiquity encapsulates, not just architectural and artistic heritage, but the more central human heritage of families and individuals within those families that have created history. Clans of Ireland is unapologetic in its endeavour to explore the sources of each of these Irish families that collectively created the web of history that has resulted in contemporary Ireland, but also, on a more global level, that has had such a disproportionate influence on contemporary society, particularly in the Western World. So, I say to you that kin and family tradition is really worth preserving as it provides us with connection and identity, without which we would be alone and isolated.

THE COUNCIL OF IRISH CLANS

Comhairle Chlanna na hÉireann | A New Thing

In September 2025, a new Irish Clans organisation, the Council of Irish Clans, was formed, being the brainchild of Proinsias Mag Fhionnghaile CIOM, who is the cultural and historical advisor to the Fitzpatrick Clan Society.

In addition to Proinsias, who is An Uachtarán(President), the board of the Council of Irish Clans comprises Conchobhar Ó Súilleabháin (Leas Uachtarán/Vice President), who is a historian and Chiefain of the O'Sullivan Clan of Munster, myself (An rúnai/Secretary), Beartle Ó Conghaile, who is and astronomer and Historian (Oifigeach Meán/Media Officer), and Sir Evan McCarthy Reagh KHS, a physicist and genetic genealogist (Príomh Aralt/Chief Herald), The MacCarthy Reagh.

The vision of the Council of Irish Clans is to foster the global Gaelic-Irish community by establishing an organisation for Irish-clan networking and cooperation, which will promote and celebrate Irish culture, and the mission centres on hosting a forum for sharing and discussion, having member committees to organise public events, holding workshops, and conducting clan research.

There are some significant initiatives planned, such as the development of a heraldic register, participation in St Patrick's Day Parade marches in Dublin and elsewhere, globally, and gatherings to celebrate traditional Irish festivals and games.

Being still in the early growth stage, with approximately thirty member clans, the Council of Irish Clans has yet to release a constitution or announce its patrons, but those matters will be addressed by mid-2027.

What does the Council of Irish Clans mean for Fitzpatricks? The best explanation is that the Council will facilitate access to a large network of Irish clans, promote Fitzpatrick clan autonomy, and provide guidance on clan leadership, even to the extent that Fitzpatrick clans can declare, should they so desire, who their chieftains and tanists are, backed by the authority of the Council.

The Fitzpatrick clans who are members of the Council of Irish Clans are:

Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighean ~ Fitzpatrick of Leinster
Contact: Dr Mike Fitzpatrick

Mac Giolla Phádraig Osraighe Uachtarach ~ Fitzpatrick of Upper Ossory
Contact: Brian Fitzpatrick

Ó Maol Phádraig Bréifne Thoir ~ O'Mulpatrick/Fitzpatrick of East Breifne
Contact: Eva Bergman

Ó Maol Phádraig Teallach Eathach ~ O'Mulpatrick/Fitzpatrick of Tullyhaw
Contact: Charlie Fitzpatrick

But watch this space for the addition of more Fitzpatrick clans in 2026!



THE WEBSITE

A new home|A fresh look

The Fitzpatrick Clan Society website, which was launched in May 2018, had taken on an old, worn-out look. It was built the old-fashioned way from scratch in html, which is odd to say since html (Hyper-Text Markup Language) was only invented in 1989.

With the introduction of web-building applications, it has become much easier to build and edit websites, although complete control is sacrificed.

Please take a look at the new Fitzpatrick Clan Society website, which is hosted at www.fitzpatrickclan.com.



Y-DNA

2025|Update

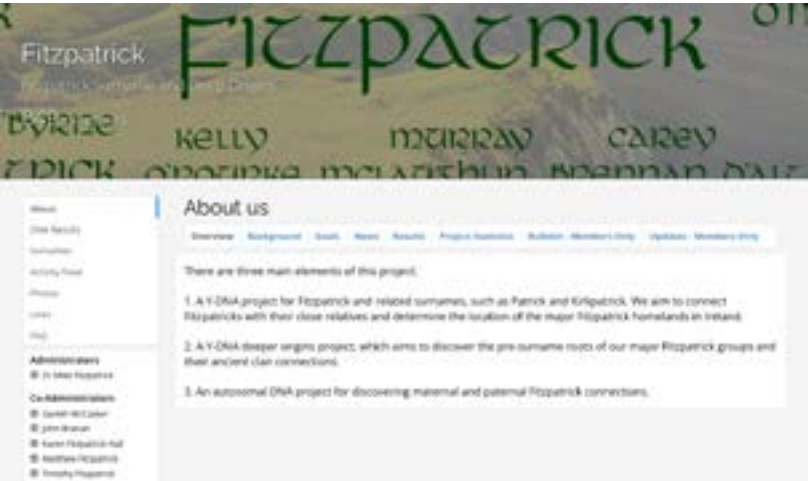
At the time this newsletter goes to press, the project's member count is 849. So growth is steady but not spectacular. Has Y-DNA testing plateaued? Probably. But I expect the project to reach the 900-member mark by this time next year. There were not too many discoveries in 2025, but a consolidation of what we have learnt to date about the various Fitzpatrick clans.

The most significant Y-DNA story of 2025 was the emergence of R-FTH54831 Fitzpatricks as a distinct clan between 850 AD and 1350 AD, from among the soup of Irish Type I (R-A259), Uí Briúin) clans.

Another significant learning was that R-A1488 Costigans, Fitzpatricks, and FitzGerald, along with the many other singly occurring surnames of that haplotype, indeed have an early (ca.) ancestral branch from Cornwall associated with the surname L'Ercedekin (Archdeacon). Cornwall was presented as a plausible pre-Irish origin for R-A1488 in the article 'The Daltons of Kildalton'. The article 'Origines Phantasticus' (see next section) reviews the connection in full

2026 should see Ian Fitzpatrick's long-awaited article on R-BY9001 Fitzpatricks, who are now branded the O'Mulpatrik of Tullyhaw.

If you are a male Fitzpatrick who has not taken a Y-DNA test, or have a male Fitzpatrick you can get a sample from, consider a test in 2026. Y-DNA tests can genuinely be a game changer!



THE JOURNAL

Leadership|in Fitzpatrick Research

2025 was another big year for publications in the Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society and on other platforms, bringing the total number of articles since May 2018 to thirty-one. Is it even worth commenting on those others who claim to be “the world’s premier vehicle for researching, understanding, and developing your connection with other Fitzpatricks”, while over the same time period, their number of publications was zero? Probably not.

If you missed our 2025 articles, which are fact-filled, informative, include much never-before-published primary material, ever thought-provoking, and often controversial, here’s a summary.

‘The Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighean’ is a clan that can be patrilineally defined by the highly surname-specific Y-DNA haplotype R-BY2849, a branch of R-Z255> L159, which is known as the ‘Leinster Modal’. The article follows the clan’s sojournings during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, starting with their homelands in County Kildare, among which was the eponymous ‘Grange Mac Giolla Phádraig’, near Monasterevin.

Through the upheavals brought about by the Kildare rebellion of 1537, the clan, whose leading figures operated as kern under the FitzGerald Earls of Kildare, was largely displaced from Kildare, yet, through finding alliances with their distant kin, the O’Tooles, O’Byrnes, and Kavanaghs of Counties Carlow, Wicklow, and Wexford, they found new places to rest their heads.

For some sub-branches of the clan, there came early seventeenth-century relocations to Counties Antrim, Down, and Louth. The settlement of Mac Giolla Phádraig in Antrim and Down was due to the clan’s associations with Hugh O’Neill, Earl of Tyrone, while Mac Giolla Phádraig settled in Louth because of a relationship with Garrett Moore, Earl of Drogheda, a close friend of Hugh O’Neill who fostered one of his sons.

An appendix to the article is the tale of the rencounter between the Killoughrum Yeomanry and Corcoran and Fitzpatrick, of County Wicklow, in 1804, which is beautifully told by Michael Fortune and reproduced here.

James Corcoran of Ballindaggin and the Babes in the Woods, by Michael Fortune

Here’s a story that comes into my mind every so often. Especially of late as I was walking in Killoughrum Woods last week and look out on it every day. It’s the story of a party of men, led by a group of men from Ballindaggin who evaded capture and hid in nearby Killoughrum Woods from June 1798 until their capture and death in February 1804.

I’ve been piecing together bits and pieces over the years and with the help of Colum Ó Ruairé from the 1798 Casualty Database and we have built up the best picture yet. The story seems to start in June 1798 during the retreat back into Wexford from Carlow at Scullogh Gap after the failed Battle of Kilcumney. A group of men from the wider Ballindaggin area acted as a rear-guard at the Gap to keep the Yeos and army at bay. These men would have known the area well so you can only assume that is why they chose this task.

One of these men was James Corcoran who we are told lived in a house belonging to Mrs. Nolan of Ballindaggin. Corcoran was an excellent marksman by all accounts and another local man called Coady who lived in a little house where the old school once was in Ballindaggin, now beside the hall. There was another Ballindaggin man called John Fitzpatrick (known as The Hessian) in the group too while Fr. Luke Cullen listed other members of the party including Jacob, West, Billy Riley, Hamilton and Menchin. There are still Menchins (Minchins) just over the border in South Carlow so probably related.

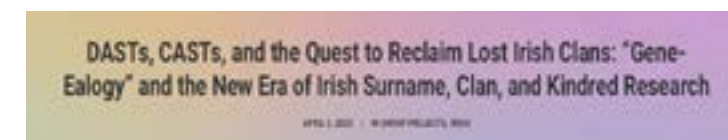
History and folklore tells us that the men hid in Killoughrum Woods, which was an extensive native oak forest between Scullogh Gap and Enniscorthy - an area the men would have known fairly well. The woods have reduced in size since 1798 but we are told they evaded capture by living in the woods and in safe houses around it. James Corcoran was seen as the ringleader and in a newspaper article (Saunders Newsletter) from December 1798 there was a proclamation by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland offering a reward of 500 pounds to anyone who “shall apprehend” him as he was wanted for “repeated acts of High Treason, and with furthering the Rebellion that lately broke out in Ireland.” The scale of money involved tells you how much they wanted Corcoran and the use of the words ‘repeated acts’ and ‘furthering the Rebellion’ tells you he was a right thorn in their side.



For years they tried to flush them out of the woods and Fr. Cullen claims that in October 1800 Hamilton, O'Reilly and Menchin were taken, not sure if killed or not, while it took another 4 years to get Corcoran and the rest. Father Cullen's accounts are probably the closest we will ever get to the story and he claims, it that on the 11th of February 1804, a Rev. M. Eastwood, a Magistrate and Rector in Kilanne had a party of Yeomen at his house for defence. They got a lead that Corcoran, Fitzpatrick and Brennan were in a safe-house not far away and he gathered a group of 12 yeomen of the Killoughrum Corps, commanded by Captain James of Ballycrystal.

Apparently Corcoran, Fitzpatrick and Brennan were lying in bed in a cabin and were woken up by a woman who saw the Yeomen coming. The men rushed towards the woods but were fired upon. Corcoran was wounded while Fitzpatrick was shot in the knee and arm. Brennan was also wounded by escaped. Not willing to surrender, Corcoran and Fitzpatrick charged, armed with two muskets, two blunderbusses and pistols. Outnumbered, Corcoran was mortally wounded while the wounded Fitzpatrick went into a nearby barn and hid. The Yeos took the easy option with this and torched it with him inside. On the 13 February an inquest was held in Wexford on the body of James Corcoran which established that he "died by wounds he received from a detachment of Ross Rangers and Killoughrum Yeomen".

I have no idea whatever happened to Brennan and no idea where James Corcoran or John Fitzpatrick were buried. All I know, is I think of the men when I look out at Killoughrum Woods and anytime I go up to pick up my three daughters from school, I park my car a few feet away from the spot where Coady's home once stood. There's also a house over in Caim that was built in the 1890s using granite from a font/trough that was used by the men to drink from when living in the woods. There's a song in my head about these men and it'll come out someday.



Next came the Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) blog article, 'DASTs, CASTs, and the Quest to Reclaim Lost Irish Clans: "Gene-Ealogy" and the New Era of Irish Surname, Clan, and Kindred Research'. It was a great honour for our Society's research to be recognised by FTDNA, positioning the Fitzpatrick DNA Project at the forefront of Irish Group Project research and authority at FTDNA, particularly since just eight years ago the Fitzpatrick DNA project was virtually dead in the water, with little vision from project leaders, project data that was hidden from view, and poor growth.

The blog article recounts some of the great recent achievements of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society, from the debunking of false Fitzpatrick genealogies to the discovery of new Fitzpatrick clans. The article also provides sage advice to Irish genealogists and scholars, encouraging proper scholarship via the interrogation of authoritative Irish genealogies, particularly those of the greatest ever Irish genealogist, Duaid MacFirbis, instead of those found in highly deficient works of the likes of John O'Hart.

Then, in May 2025, we published Part III of 'Ó Maol Phádraig: the name, the people, and the clans', in which there is a great coming together of annalistic and genealogical records of the surname Ó Maol Phádraig in the context of sixteenth and seventeenth-century records, which pertain mostly to fiants, patents, and 1641 Depositions of Ó Maol Phádraig clans of Bréifne.

Those of you with Bréifne connections should take a look at the following maps, which show the key placenames of Ó Maol Phádraig clans of Bréifne and Corcaigh.



Part III strongly underpins the next article in the series, in which we identify the Y-DNA haplotypes of the members of Ó Maol Phádraig clans, of which there are at least six. It is another fantastic achievement of the Society that in just seven years we have, effectively, overseen the resurrection of the Ó Maol Phádraig surname. Much credit for the instigation of the project goes to Matt Fitzpatrick of County Derry and Bernard Fitzpatrick of Queensland, Australia.

Of course, there are cynics who have declared the clans we have revived are not really clans. But Irish records make it quite clear, and critics would do well to read the Irish fiants and patents. One example of a Ó Maol Phádraig clan springs to mind because today its members are few – there are just seven on the DNA project, but their Y-DNA results indicate that their surname was in use ca. 1400 AD, or earlier. One member can trace his line back to the west of County Monaghan, in the exact location Ó Maol Phádraig kindred were domiciled at the time of the 1641 Depositions. At that time, the fiants record family members had a ‘Chief of the Name’ – and if there was a chief, there was surely a clan; QED.

1602. FIANTS—ELIZABETH.
Conor O Molpatrick, chief of his name, Hugh O Reyly, of Curlurge, Philip O Reyly, of same, Donell O Reyly, of Rathnedornoraghe, Shaen O Gowen, of Crevodie, Tirrelagh boy m'Bren O Reyly, of Enaghen, Shaen m'Caluill moyle Brady, of Hilton, Hugh boy O Lynsy, of Donanys, Donell duffe O Heary, of Castlecor, Hugh M'Ingawny, of Donanys, Brein m'Edm. O Reyly, of Kelnycrotty, Ferrall and Tirlagh m'Edm. O Reyly, of same, Donell O Lyensy, of Donanys, Hugh M'Phillipp, of Laghbally, Corbonaght and Owthny M'Phillip, of same, Owthny M'Kernane, of Ross, co. Menth, Ferrall m'Shane O Linsy, Donell m'Gerald O Reyly, Ferrall M'a Kernan, Bryne bone M'Kernan, Tyrllagh oge M'Kernan, Cormock, Shane, and Cuconaght m'Edm. oge M'Kernan, Owen and Owny m'Kale M'Kernan, and Donell m'Caie M'Kernan, of same, Tho. Nugent, of Culamber, Walter Dalamar, of Dera, Donell Farall, of the Abbey of Lanay, Donell O Farrall, of Ardaughraghe, Mary Farrall, of Ballentober,

Then, in quick succession, in September 2025, came ‘The Will of Colonel John FitzPatrick’ and ‘The County Laois Rental Book of Captain Richard Fitzpatrick, 1700-1719’. The articles are related since Captain Richard Fitzpatrick’s estate came largely via the bequest of Colonel John Fitzpatrick to Brigadier Edward Fitzpatrick, the older brother of Richard, later Lord Gowran. For those who like a bit of mystery and intrigue, ‘The Will of Colonel John FitzPatrick’ is worth a read because it is clear there was no small degree of dispute between the three surviving sisters of Colonel John Fitzpatrick and the Brigadier; the trio considered in no uncertain terms they were the victims of a fraud. I won’t spoil the rest of the tale.



‘The County Laois Rental Book of Captain Richard Fitzpatrick, 1700-1719’ is an important article because it places previously unpublished records of many Fitzpatricks of County Laois in the public domain, as well as providing insights into the successful operation of a large estate.

The Tenants Debtors for the half years Rent ended Lady-day 1703.

<i>Tenants Names</i>	<i>Denominations</i>	<i>half pence</i>
<i>Brought over</i>	<i>To balance due from the year to complete the half years Rent ended Michael 1702</i>	<i>L 8 - 15</i>
<i>Palmer & Fletcher</i>	<i>Grainstown, &c</i>	<i>122 8</i>
<i>William Gray</i>	<i>Cuddough</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>Richard Archbold</i>	<i>Raphodragh</i>	<i>22 40</i>
<i>Pierce Bryan</i>	<i>Oppaleuan</i>	<i>8 10</i>
<i>Thomas Bellin</i>	<i>Killycolla &c</i>	<i>64 2</i>
<i>Kerberry Keagan</i>	<i>Kilmulfoiles</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Tho Gray & Jos. Brennan</i>	<i>Tythes</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Thady Fitz Patrick</i>	<i>Castle town &c</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Thady Fitz Patrick</i>	<i>Kilnablogh</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Mortogh Giffin</i>	<i>Conneen</i>	<i>47 10</i>
<i>Thomas & Hen. Kingwood</i>	<i>Graigadilly</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Thomas Kingwood</i>	<i>Tintore</i>	<i>35 2</i>
<i>William & Tho. Mitchell</i>	<i>Knockamullen</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Richard Hutchinson</i>	<i>Conduccin</i>	<i>17 10</i>
		<i>L 583 12</i>

In December 2025, the Genealogical Society of Ireland published ‘Fitzpatrick Gene-Ealogy and the Case for Working the Hyphen’, a short, easy read that I recommend to all those interested in serious Irish genealogy.

The article was written in response to a 2024 Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland article entitled ‘High Resolution Paternal Genetic History of Ireland and its Implications for Demographic History’, which is, in our opinion, anything but what it is stated to be.

Notably, the Fitzpatrick narratives discussed therein are poorly derived, based on long-refuted sources, lacking critical thinking, failing to consider much compelling new material, and even failing to adhere to the most basic scholarly principles. So, all in all, an example of how not to do critical Irish genealogy, such as promoted by the ‘Cerball Nexus’ theory, which I come to next.



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The last article of the year was an editorial called ‘Origines Phantasticus’, which I highly recommend, even just for entertainment value. Origines Phantasticus provides a counter to a wobbly old theory that goes around by word of mouth known as ‘The Cerball Nexus’, which posits the common connection (hence, the Latin, nexus, meaning connection) is Cearbhall, King of Ossory (843-888 AD), since three connected surnames under R-FT265133, Fitzpatrick, Costigan, and Branán, are said to be Cearbhall’s descendants.

But a more considered opinion would likely result in a re-branding of the theory to ‘The Nexus Ridiculus’, of obvious meaning, since there is no attempt by Nexus adherents, the Nexians, to connect all prominent surnames under R-FT265133, only those three surnames that suit their purposes; hence, conspicuous by their absence from the Cerball Nexus are the surnames Dalton and Cody, not to mention the lack of any discussion of matches from ca. 1200 AD to the Cornish surname, Bargwanna.

‘Origines Phantasticus’ makes sense of the common locational origins of R-FT265133 descendants, who were from Suffolk and Cornwall prior to the Norman invasion of Ireland in 1169 AD. I won’t spoil the ending, suffice to say that not many Irish families can boast a family photo from 1066!



FACEBOOK

The Best | of 2025 | thanks all who contributed

