

Nuacht agus tuairimí

January
2023

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 Noradoa

Daimhinis, Fear Manach; Devenish Island, Fermanagh.

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Finte na hÉireann - Clans of Ireland

Registered clans:

Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais

Fitzpatrick of Cas

Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighin

Fitzpatrick of Leinster

Mac Giolla Phádraig Ulaidh

Fitzpatrick of Ulster

Mac Giolla Phádraig Osraighe Uachtarach

Fitzpatrick of Upper Ossory

Ó Maol Phádraig Breifne

O'Mulpatrick of Breifne

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January 2023 nuacht agus tuairimí

<https://www.fitzpatrickclan.org>

Nuacht agus tuairimí

About | News and Views

This edition of Nuacht agus tuairimí (News and views) marks another step in the evolution of how we regularly communicate with you. Many of our 550+ members who are signed up to the Fitzpatrick Clan Society are also members of the Facebook group, which recently passed the 1500 figure. Everything we communicate is via the Facebook group, which affords the rapid dissemination of our announcements and immediate comments from our members.

As 2022 progressed, the production of the Quarterly became a bit burdensome, in large part due to the success of our Journal, which saw unprecedented outputs in 2023. It's not only the work needed to get the journal articles published; our pieces are widely read, creating more work as we respond to comments and questions. The traffic is constant and voluminous: we can track our article reads, which number more than 10,000 in the past three years.

Our three most popular articles are [Colonial American Fitzpatrick Settlers Part I](#) (1,160+ reads); [Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais: an ancient clan rediscovered](#) (450+ reads); and, [The similar-sounding surnames of haplogroup R-BY140757](#) (560+ reads). And the article Esther and I published in the Journal Genealogy, [When everything changes: using critical family history to deconstruct Keesing and Fitzpatrick surnames](#), has seen more than 5,900 reads. Hence, I consider it best if our written outputs are where our exposure is most significant. The Clan Quarterly will live on in Nuacht agus tuairimí, but the newsletter won't be with clockwork regularity; the focus will remain on DNA reviews, Clans of Ireland correspondence, and submissions from members.

I hope 2023 is a great one for you all. I know of many stories of friends, family, and Clan Society members who had tough times in 2022; no one I know was immune, excuse the pun, my own family included. Esther's dad died, and she also lost a close aunt and her dear old dog. I had Covid, which slowed me down for about ten weeks. Yet, as I looked back on 2022, I found so much to celebrate. From a Clan Society perspective, some good moments are found here in this News and Views update. And there are many more good moments and incredible clan discoveries to follow in 2023.

Mike Fitzpatrick
Editor

RECORDS

Beyond |The Vital

Outside of the quest for Vital Records, family historians with Irish interests often turn to land records, such as the Griffith's Valuation, to uncover more about where their ancestors lived, who their extended family was, and what their broader clan associations may have been in ancient times. But what when the trail goes cold, as it does for many around the turn of the nineteenth century?

Recently, while methodically reviewing two little-used sources, but not for any specific project, we found records that shed more light on two of our Fitzpatrick clans.

First, we saw records from the Irish Court of Chancery Bill Book. At [Find My Past](#), we read,

‘The Court of Chancery was an equity court of Ireland, presided over by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, that existed until abolition as part of the 1877 reform of the court system. It was based in Dublin. The Lord Chancellor was originally considered to be “keeper of the king’s conscience”, charged with giving relief in any case where common law courts were unable to provide remedy, though over time it developed into a legal system of its own called ‘Equity’, that stood parallel to common law.’

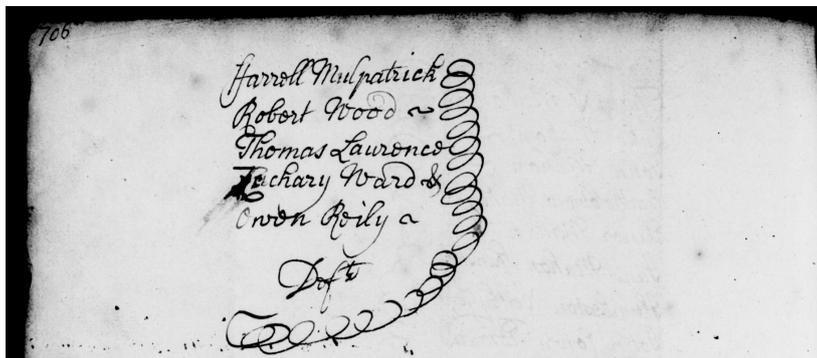
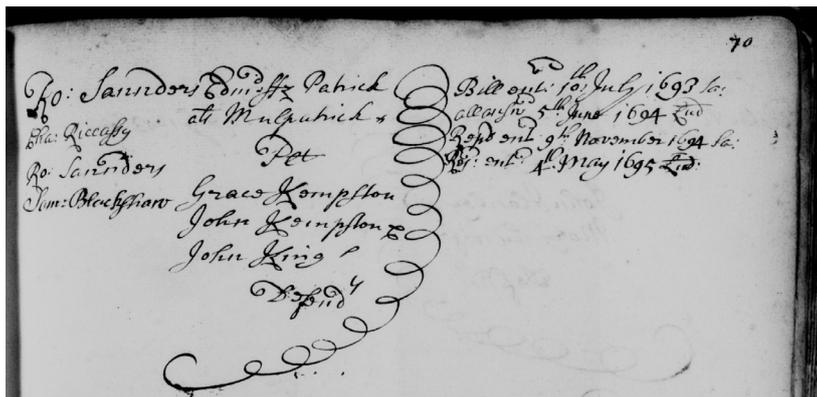
The “Bill Books” recorded civil cases from 1627 to 1884, with numerous plaintiffs and defendants named.

‘While case details are generally not recorded in these books, there are very many family disputes and those relationships are noted. Those taking cases to Exchequer tended to be land owners, merchants, business owners, professionals and the larger farmers as it was expensive for anyone else to attend court in Dublin. However defendants in cases could come from a broader sector of society.’

One of the records that caught our eye was from 1693. It named Edmund Fitzpatrick, alias Mulpatrik as the plaintiff, which is important since it demonstrates that the surname Mulpatrik was still in use in the late seventeenth century and that the court scribe used a corrupted version of the surname (i.e., Fitzpatrick).

Other Mulpatrick's are found in the Bill Book as late as 1730, and they will be discussed in one of our upcoming series of articles titled, 'Ó Maol Phádraig: the name, the people, and the clans'.

Notable in a Bill Book record from 1722 is Farrell Mulpatrick. While Farrell was not an exceptionally uncommon given name, there are lines of Bréifne Fitzpatrick's who have ancestors across several generations called Farrell Fitzpatrick. By tracing the living descendants of the Farrell Fitzpatrick's, and having them participate in the DNA project, we may have a way of determining who among our modern Fitzpatrick's are possibly descendants of Farrell Mulpatrick, i.e., anciently from an Ó Maol Phádraig clan.



Another record set that provides an exciting surname insight is the 1803 Agricultural Census. Writing in 1984 in the journal, 'Irish Economic and Social History', Michael Turner stated:

'In the late autumn of 1803 an agricultural census of live and dead stock was conducted in Co. Down. This was one of a series of enquiries conducted in Britain and Ireland between 1795 and 1803, some of which were in response to concern over harvest deficiencies and wartime food supply, while others, including the Down survey, stemmed from fears of French invasion'.

Summaries of the 1803 Agricultural Census of County Down are available online. Still, we have copies of the complete records from the originals housed at PRONI, although we have yet to process the documents fully.

Recently, while trawling through the [Virtual Treasury](#), we came across some extracts of the 1803 Agricultural Census; these extracts differed from those at PRONI. The former are fully handwritten summaries, whereas the latter are handwritten on a pre-printed form. Also, the latter summarise only livestock (i.e., cows, sheep, goats, pigs, and horses), whereas the former have dead stock (i.e., oats, barley, hay, straw, potatoes, flour and meal) listed as well.

Notable is a record for Drummee, in the parish of Maghera, because the pre-printed form lists Daniel and Lawrence Fitzpatrick among stock owners. Yet in the handwritten summary, the same men are recorded as Daniel and Lawrence McIllepatrick, which is a typical English transliteration (i.e., phonetic form) of Mac Giolla Phádraig.

Hence, the 1803 Agricultural Census demonstrates the late use of Mac Giolla Phádraig in County Down by some Fitzpatricks – considerably later than the County Down record we've found previously, which is an estate record from 1688.

The census record also demonstrates that while some of the census record takers appeared content to note down the surname of Daniel and Lawrence as it was probably provided, others took it on themselves only to record the English version; such a (colonising) practice was commonplace in Ireland from the 1600s.

	Oxen.	Cows.	Young Cattle.	Sheep and Goats	Pigs.	Kidding	Draft.	Carts	Cars.	Bushels Wheat.	Bushels Oats	Bushels Barley.	Louds Hay	Louds Straw	Sacks Potatoes	Cost. Cat Meal.
John Green	4	5	6	2			3		2	10	100	52	24	21	40	2
Edward Flinn		2			1						14			2	4	
Dennis Haughean				3							36			3	6	
Hugh Donely	1	2	3	2		1		1		24		2	4	2		
Widow Jones	1	1		2						24		2	4	0		
Bernard Donely	1	2	3	1						40		1	4	10		
Edward Donely	1	2	1	2						12			3	10		
John Summity	1	1	1	2						12			3	3		
Widow Summity			1	1						00				2	10	
Lawrence Coan	1		1	1			1	1		30		1	4	10		
Arthur Burns				1						15				2	6	
Daniel Small	1	1		1						20				2	6	
Elinor Burns	1	1		1			1			20				4	4	
Hugh Small	1	1		1			1			2				4	12	
John Small	1													1	6	
Joseph Fisher	2			1		2		1		24		2	4	4	12	
Daniel Fitzpatrick	1	1								24			4	4	4	
Lawrence Fitzpatrick	1	1		1						24			4	4	6	

A list of the moveable stock in Drimice

	Cows	horses	cars	pigs	sheep	Goats
John Green	9	3	1	2	2	
Widow Donly	3			1		
Brian Donly	2			1		
Hugh Donly	3	1	1	2	3	
Nell Flinn	2			1		3
Dennis Hahion						
Widow Jones	2			2		
James Sinclair	1			2		1
Felix Coan	1			1		
Jack Summity	2			1		1
Lawrence Coan	1	1	1	1	1	
Arthur Burns				1		
Nelly Burns	1		1			
Jack Small	1			1		
Daniel Small	2			1		
Daniel McPatrick	2			2		
Lawrence McPatrick	2			1	2	

THE JOURNAL

2022 Review | 2023 Intentions

An end-of-year push saw us publish five Journal pieces in 2022 for a total of 100 pages – with 44,000+ words and 14 images – of discovery, insight, intrigue, and no small degree of controversy.

Records that have never seen the light of day have been shared with the Fitzpatrick community. Hence, while article authors interpret and discuss such records via their lens, readers can view the unedited ancient documents and interpret them as they see fit.

Certainly, a big highlight of our publishing year was the article on our [Dalcassian Fitzpatricks](#). Just a few years ago no one had any idea that modern-day Fitzpatricks of Clare, Galway (including the Aran Islands), Mayo, and Roscommon could be paternally connected and share ancestry with the ancestors of Brian Boru. Yet, now there is a Clan Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais registered with Clans of Ireland, and its members can rightly stand on the southwest coast cliffs and gaze at Aran in the distance, and feel they are ‘home’. The images on the following pages show a Dalcassian pedigree and Aran memorials.

Even though the Dalcassians are not my clan, I will visit Aran and the Cliffs of Moher when I next find myself on Ireland’s shores. Perhaps I’ll even go hunting for the town once called ‘Ballycleny macgi-laptrick’, in the Barony of Bunratty, named after Dalcassian Fitzpatrick ancestors. And our Dalcassian Fitzpatricks can also look back over their shoulders eastwards toward the Slieve Bloom Mountains, knowing that the Annalistic records of the Mac Giolla Phádraig who arose there ca. 1200 AD were their kin, which totally disrupts the traditional narrative that Upper Ossory Mac Giolla Phádraig had transplanted there after being evicted from Kilkenny.

Sure, it’s complicated because there is more than one line of Dalcassian Fitzpatricks. They connect before the age of surnames, ca. 1000 AD, which is consistent with our finding, via the genealogies of Mac Firbis, that the name Giolla Phádraig was taken much more often in Munster than it was in Leinster, the latter including Ossory. In fact, Giolla Phádraig was also taken much more in Breifne and Oriel than Leinster, which makes sense of the proliferation of different Fitzpatrick lines we see in those two regions – but that’s a story for another day.

Darby fitz Patrick of Lissdonwarney in the County of Clare
 gent decaled eldest sonne & heire of Florence fitz Patrick of
 the same gent, eldest sonne and heire of Florence fitz Patrick
 of Downesallagh in the said County gent, onely sonne of
 Darby fitz Patrick of Downesallagh aforelaid, eldest sonne &
 heire of Gulle duffe fitz Patrick of the same gent, ^{ch} ~~which~~ Gulle
 = duffe descended from Connor fitz Patrick second brother of
 Daniell more lately called m Gullepatrick Lord of vpper offory



For sheer entertainment value, our publication of [letters](#) written by Bryan Fitzpatrick, First Baron of Upper Ossory, and his son Barnaby, later the Second Baron, is better than anything we have published to date. Yes, the contents of the letters were understood in small part and general terms through Carrigan's 'History and Antiquities', but to see a family spat fully play out in black and white, while tragic in many respects, had an aspect of fascination. Well, at least to me. Reading Barnaby's words about his step-mother being aligned with a 'pack of witches' whose 'chief witch [was] a woman of my mother-in-law's ... all set out to do me harm and to destroy me', made me wonder how Barnaby managed to sleep at night. Yet it was, seemingly, without much fear, Barnaby declaring 'their devilness having more power over the shabbiest beast I rode on than over me'.

Apart from the accusations (and subsequent denials) of theft, murder, and arson, the tit-for-tat name-calling, and Barnaby maintaining his father was in an advanced state of dementia, there are some factual gold nuggets. One is that Bryan's father, John, died in 1511, which brings great clarity to who is (and who isn't) buried at Grangefertagh, Kilkenny, and why there, not in Upper Ossory. We have said previously, it is implausible that John is buried at Grangefertagh because the tomb is not nearly old enough to align with his year of death. Now it is clear, via the letters, that Bryan was exiled from his homelands in his later years and spent his time in Tipperary and Kilkenny, which would make sense of Bryan's burial place being Grangefertagh, at a Butler chapel, not somewhere in Upper Ossory.

The letters of Bryan and Barnaby are found in the collection of Carrigan Manuscripts held at St Kieran's Archives, Kilkenny, and we hope to publish more from that collection in 2023. Some excerpts are provided on the following pages.

There were also two articles that delved deep into record sets that are rarely, if ever, mentioned in the traditional Fitzpatrick narratives of Carrigan and Shearman, i.e., the Fiants, and Patents, of Ireland, and the Papal Registers. Some of our 2020 and 2021 articles touched on these records partly, but we have now started to interrogate them in much greater depth. And care is needed when interrogating the fiants and patents because connections don't just leap out and slap you in the face. In particular, there are complexities of surname use that can only be understood alongside elements such as locational information or succession to clerical benefices.

One of the 2023 'Fiants' articles is about the [Mac Fynen](#), who were a Fitzpatrick line that adopted a different surname in the 1500s. Mac Fynen morphed later into Fynen, Kynen, and even Keenan (see image).

Appendix 1X
 Letter from the Baron of Upper Ossory, and
 his son Sir Bernabe Fitzpatrick, 28 1571
 Bodleian Library, Oxford
 For facsimile plates, see Plates XI and XII.

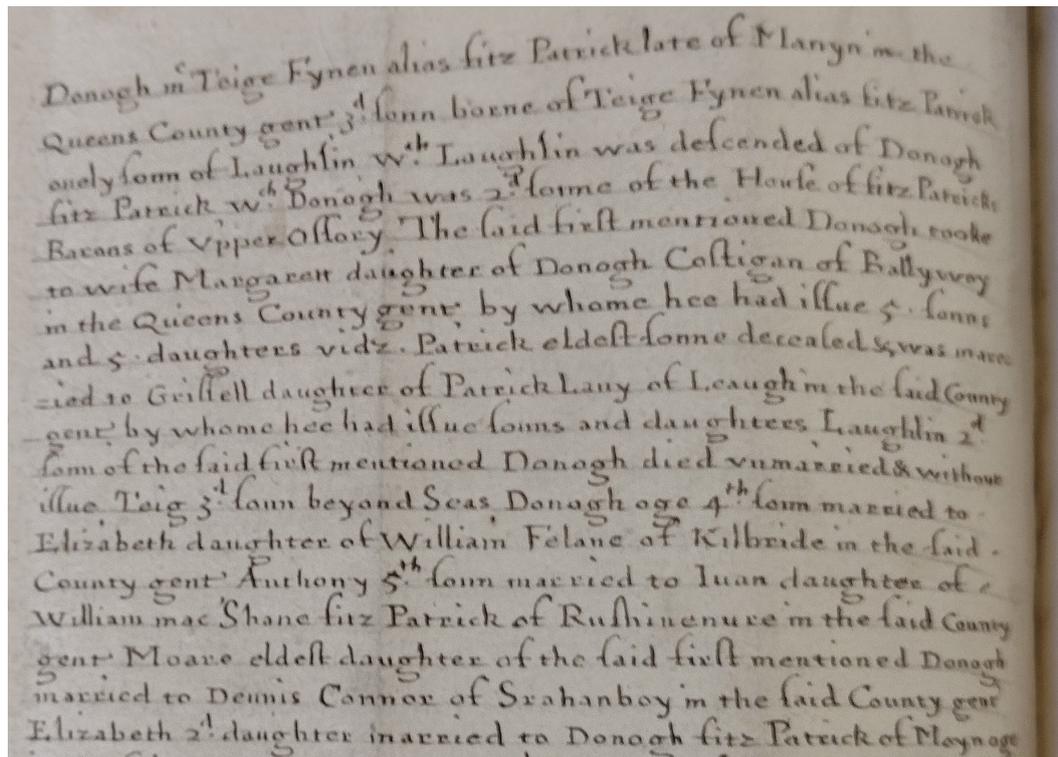
The Baron of Upper Ossory to Sir William Fitz-
 William, Lord Justice of Ireland
 Right honorable and my singular good Lord,
 my humble and due remembrance. It may
 please you to be advertised, that my
 son Sir Bernabe Fitz-Patrick, hath so
 unreasonably and ungodly used me
 and my wyf heretofore, by unproportionably
 taking away my goods and cattell, and usur-
 ping and percyping to his own use
 my rents, seignories, and duties, by playing
 force and violence, contrary to my wyf
 and pleasure, and also by taking of my
 castles of Popprath and Cowthill and
 expelling me, my servants, and tenants
 out of the same, and placing them men of

his owne, as I durst not, for fear of my sayd
 cruell, unnatural, and ungodly sonne
 his further mischefe to be wrought ag-
 ainst me, abyd in myne owne countrey,
 to the inheritance wherof I was borne, and
 which I have enjoyed and enjoyed and de-
 fended thus thre score yeres past and
 more, tyll nowe I was by my sayd son
 banished out of the same and driven
 to flye myself and my wyffe and fewe of
 my servants for soccor into the arle
 of Ormond's countrey, wher nowe I re-
 mayne without rent, land, or byring
 to mainteyne my poore aged, and
 impotent estate, for my sayd sonne
 takith all my byring to hymself and suf-
 froth nothing to come to me, contrary to
 the commaundements of God, the dutie
 and obedience he oweth me, his naturall
 father, to the great terror and feare of all
 parents to bring up and mainteyne their
 chylde as I have done hym, and to the

utter undoing of me, my poor wyf, and
 such of my poor servants as durst fol-
 lowe me beinge in this extremitie, if I
 maye remede be not by your honor
 provided for the same. This shall be,
 therefore, moost humbly to beseeche your
 honor, for God's sake and the Zeale you
 bear to justice, to direct your honor's car-
 nest and effectuall commandement to
 the sayd Sir Bernabe not onely to kepe
 the Queene's Maiesties peace to me, my
 wyffe, and servants, but also to send and
 suffre all my rents, seignories, duties,
 customes, and casualties of my sayd
 Countrey to be sent unto me wheresoever
 I am or shall be during my lyf, and also
 to restore me to my sayd castles, and
 lands and suffre me to enjoy the same,
 and all other my byring, in as large and
 ample manner as ever by therto I had them,
 sirs, sirs, Lord of that countrey, and also to
 directe your honorable commandement to

all the freeholders, gentlemen, gentlemen, and ten-
 nants of Upper Ossory to pay, paye, and do all
 their rents, services, customes, and duties,
 to me during my lyf, and not to the sayd Sir
 Bernabe, and to send the same unto me when
 soever I am or shall be during my lyf,
 wherun your honor shall do a goodly and just
 dead and byring bynd me your supplye and
 dayly to pray for your honorable estate in
 prosperitie long to continue. And thus, be-
 sechinge God to send your honor prosperous
 success in all your affaires and give
 you his grace to see to the lamentable
 estate of mee, your poor supplicant, I
 must humbly take my leave from the
 Kyllhowle, the xiiiith of Aprill, 1571

Your honor's moost humbly to commaund
 Bernabe of Upper Ossory
 To the Right Honorable and my singular good
 Lord, Sir William Fitz-Williams, Knight,
 Lord Justice of Ireland, youe thes.



The Mac Fynen were interwoven with the Fitzpatricks and Mac Costigans of Offerlane and provide an excellent example of unexpected surname adoption. In 2023/2024, we hope to follow up with similar articles on the virtually unknown Fitzpatricks septs, such as the Mac David (Mac Davie) and Mac Edmond, as well as the better-known Fitzpatrick septs, such as the Mac Shera (Mac Jeffrey).

The other 'Fiants' article is a little controversial because it deals with the [Mac Costigan](#); their traditional narrative is they were a branch of the Mac Giolla Phádraig who arose ca. 1200 AD. But this is now proven to be incorrect, and there are lessons in our article for every genealogist if you are experienced or just starting, from the Mac Costigan – those lessons being scrutinise the source material and don't just fall into believing what others, sometimes 'the experts', say.

When I first read about Clan Mac Costigan several years back, I fell for Shearman's Mac Costigan narrative hook, line, and sinker. Why? Because Shearman was the expert and had written a book. His Mac Costigan story sounded convincing, even if it was thin on facts. Shearman's argument is (a) there was a 'Hodgekin' Mac Giolla Phádraig of the Annals who died in 1289, (b) 'Mac Hodgekin' killed Thomas Butler in 1329, and (c) Hodgekin is a variant of Roger, and so is 'Ostickan', i.e., Costigan. Hence, Shearman added 1+1+1 and, with an assumptive genealogy leap, summed them up to 4.

But it turns out, under proper scrutiny, that (a) the ‘Hodgekin’ in the Annals is Eochagán, which means horseman in Gaelic and has no relationship with the personal name Roger, (b) the ‘Mac Hodgekin’ who killed Thomas Butler was of clan Mac Geoghegan of Westmeath and totally unrelated to any Mac Giolla Phádraig, and (c) while Shearman was correct, that the surname Mac Costigan is derived from the personal name Roger, Woulfe explains there are several surname variants, which include Mac Oiste, Mac Costy, and Hosty (refer images); these names provide many clues concerning true Mac Costigan origins.

So the actual math is 0+0+1, i.e., Shearman got one thing correct, and once the surname variants were understood, it was possible to go to work with a clear focus and undistracted by Shearman’s false and assumed genealogies. And from there, things all got pretty interesting because the earliest records of the Mac Costigan have them as clerics in the northeast of the Diocese of Killaloe, i.e., in north Tipperary not far from the Leinster border, in the Parish of Modreeny. And there in the heart of Modreeny is a townland called Baile Hoiste, i.e., ‘Hosty’s Town’.

Mac Geoghegan⁴ gave a great overthrow to the English, in which three thousand five hundred of the English, together with the D’Altons, and the son of the vain-glorious knight, were slain.

4. *Mac Geoghegan*. This battle, in which the English forces met such a tremendous defeat, was fought near Mullingar, the day before the feast of St. Lawrence, namely, the 9th of August. The Irish clans were commanded by William Mac Geoghegan, lord of Kinel Fiacha, a large territory in Westmeath, comprising the present baronies of Moycashel and Rathconrath. The English forces were commanded by lord Thomas Butler, the Petits, Tuites, D’Altons, Delamers, Tyrrells, Nangles, &c. In Pembridge’s Annals, quoted by Mac Geoghegan in his History of Ireland, (Duffy’s edition, p. 322), Pembridge says, “The same year on the eve of St. Laurence, lord Thomas Butler marched with a great army towards Ardnorcher, and met there lord Thomas Mac Geoghegan. The lord Thomas Butler and many besides were killed, to the great loss of Ireland.” Amongst the English captains killed Pembridge enumerates John, Roger, and Thomas Ledwich; John and David Nangle; Miler and Simon Petit; Nicholas and John White; James Tyrrell; John Warringer; Peter Kent; and William Freyne, with 140 other leaders whose names are unknown. On this battle Henry Marleborough in his chronicle says, “Lord Thomas Butler and divers other noblemen were slain by Mac Geoghegan and the Irish near Molingar.” Mac Geoghegan was named William Gallda, from having defeated the English. See his death, at A. D. 1332.

Mac Costagáin

Rev Patrick Woulfe

Irish Names and Surnames

1923

Mac COSTAGÁIN, *M'Costegane, M'Costegan, Costigan*; a corruption of [Mac Oisticín](#), *which see*.

Mac OISTICÍN, Mac OISTIGÍN—*Y—M'Costikine, M'Costigine, M'Costegine, Costigan*; 'son of Hodgkin' (diminutive of Hodge, i.e., Roger); often corruptly, in the spoken language, [Mac Costagáin](#) and [Ó Costagáin](#), *which see*;

Mac OISTE—*Y—M'Coisht, M'Coiste, M'Costy, MacGusty, Hosty, Hasty, &c.*; 'son of Hodge' (a 'pet' form of Roger); the name of a Mayo family of Welsh origin, so called from an ancestor named Hodge Merrick, who was killed in 1272; also written [Mac Hoiste](#), *which see*.

Mac HOISTE—*Y—M'Hostie, M'Hoste, Hosty, &c.*; 'son of Hodge' (a 'pet' name for Roger). *See* [Mac Oiste](#).

We are sure it doesn't get any simpler than that. The Mac Costigan probably came from 'Hosty's Town' ca. 1400 AD. That the Mac Costigan clerics made their way over the diocesan border into Upper Ossory, where they are found from the mid-1400s, is unremarkable – the trip was just a few miles. More remarkable is that a certain John Mac Costigan (b. 1457), a cleric, came to take the alias Mac Giolla Phádraig. Later in life, John dropped Mac Costigan altogether; perhaps the name Mac Giolla Phádraig had a nicer ring to it – it indeed carried much more status.

So is there any wonder that today there are Costigan-Fitzpatrick Y-DNA matches who share a common ancestry from ca. 1420 AD? Who 'came first', the Mac Costigan or the Mac Giolla Phádraig of Upper Ossory? You will form your ideas, but we conclude, with confidence, that Shearman's was 'an assumed genealogy', and we are happy to see it dismantled. And we are conducting more research aimed at more fully unraveling the true Mac Costigan connections to the Barons of Upper Ossory,

A fifth publication of 2022 was an Editorial piece entitled, '[On Fitzpatrick Scholarship](#)', which is me having a rant about modern-day Shearmans, whose so-called research appears on a website known not to be a bastion of academic truth or integrity, viz., Wikipedia. I like many aspects of Wikipedia, but I don't like seeing Fitzpatrick flimflam there, especially from those Fitzpatricks who hide anonymously under pseudonyms such as 'The King of Ossory'.

When we do see nonsense about Fitzpatricks on Wikipedia, we will tear it down and keep the Fitzpatrick-related Wikis factual. And on academic credibility, it was nice to see Ian and I receive credible feedback on our articles, including the one on Dalcassians. But it was mainly the 2021 article we wrote about haplotype BY140797 of the surname 'Branan' that drew comment from [Patrick Comerford](#) via his award-winning blog.

‘Genealogists constantly face a battle of the brains with families who continue to prefer to perpetuate myths about family origins, repeated and retold over the generations and down through time, instead of accepting research that uses the accepted tools of modern historical research that demands primary sources and refuses to accept past genealogical constructs that satisfied the vanities of family members in the past.’

Comerford noted, our ‘methodology and approach are important advances in genealogical research’, since they adopt ‘scientific approaches to challenging traditional but myth-laden and fact-denying constructions of family trees and pedigrees’ and that our ‘work is a challenge to the way Irish genealogists have worked in the past, and is a pioneering approach to genealogical research in Ireland.’

Comerford’s comments drew a reaction from one reader, who squealed, ‘Caution: these new revisionist theories proposed by the Fitzpatrick Clan Society may be considered highly controversial and have not yet been subjected to critical analysis’.

Of course, ‘new revisionist’ brings an entirely derogatory attack on our research prosperous Fitzpatrick Clan Society since it infers we have made deliberate misstatements about historical events, i.e., lied deliberately about the past to create a new narrative. But one thing is evident to me – you only have to spend a few hours with Rev Shearman and Rev Carrigan to know where the deception and cover-ups concerning Fitzpatrick histories have originated. And to suggest our research has not been subject to critical review before publication is deeply dishonest; read our Editorial for more.

So, thank you, Patrick Comerford, who was the first to note how ‘Carrigan avoided a critical approach to the lives of clergy in his diocese’. Ian and I put it this way – Carrigan was ‘a sidestepper of unbecoming acts by clergy’. That there are living descendants of a line of prolific Mac Giolla Phádraig clerics is sure to unsettle since it disrupts the narrative of those who grew up thinking they stemmed from a race of ancient Irish kings. But our revisions are no work of dishonesty; we understand that some of the descendants of the clerics may have been anxious to conceal the truth, and there is the actual deceit.

As I look forward to the coming year, I always like to give people a heads-up regarding our next articles. Things don't always turn out the way we plan. In 2022 I'd wanted to publish an article with Dr Janes Lyons about the 'Fitzpatrick tomb' at Grangefeartagh; sadly, Jane passed away in August, another significant loss in 2022. The article will come at some stage, along with a stunning 3-D reconstruction of the tomb mensas that will add much to what historians, such as Carrigan, have said are laid to rest under them.

That may not be in 2023, but hopefully, we will have Part II of Ian's research on Colonial American Fitzpatricks. And along with that, we hope to have articles from new contributors to the Journal, including John Branan. John is putting the finishing touches in his article about the US descendants of Caron and Kenyon Branan. In addition, we are hopeful Matt Fitzpatrick will join Ian and I in authoring an article of great depth and breadth about haplotype R-CTS2457, which includes men of the surnames Cosgrove, Fitzpatrick, Nugent, and others.

I should get around to publishing some of the letters of Richard Wilson Fitzpatrick, some more of Carrigan's manuscripts, and some summaries of Fitzpatrick land leases in County Down from the mid-1700s. I also hope to complete Part III in our series on the Mac Giolla Phádraig of Osraí. And an article on the Ó Maol Phádraig (O'Mulpatrick) is long overdue; we begin with Part I of a series that explores the surname origins, the various clans, and what became of them.

Finally, while not part of our intended Journal article publications in 2023, I'd like to announce that we have embarked on writing our multi-volume book, 'The Fitzpatrick Clans', which will be the most comprehensive publication ever produced on Fitzpatrick-surname families.

It's a very exciting venture and will involve contributions from scores of Fitzpatricks. The scope of each volume will be enormous, from historical accounts to estate and census records, from far back in time to ca. 1920. No lineage that we know of will be left out. The book will not be available electronically, and we will seek subscribers for each print volume ahead of publication. Volume I, Part I, will be ready by the end of 2023, so watch this space for further details.

Before we know it, 2024 (and writer's cramp) will be on us!

CLANS OF IRELAND

Finte na hÉireann | News



2022 was another busy year with our friends at [Clans of Ireland](#). After the formation of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society in 2018, we felt it essential that distinct Fitzpatrick lineages, too long ignored as Fitzpatrick clans in their own right, gained recognition. And we achieved that via the registration, in 2018, of the Fitzpatrick (O'Mulpatrick) of Bréifne, and the Fitzpatrick of Ulster.

To have another three Fitzpatrick clans registered with Clans of Ireland in 2022 was the result of much effort. It will be of little surprise to many to see the Fitzpatrick of Upper Ossory finally registered, and many will probably be thinking, 'why wasn't it done sooner?' Good question and we think we understand some of the background and reasons behind that. We can point to the fact that there has been much desire for some Fitzpatricks to be associated with the Fitzpatrick of Upper Ossory, with their great family narratives and prestige of the Barons of Upper Ossory, and to be among those considered by some (vocal few) as the magnificent and regal-sounding 'Fitzpatrick Chief of His Name'. In some, that vanity extended to a pretty bizarre notion of the superiority of the Fitzpatrick of Upper Ossory among all other Fitzpatrick clans. Yet, contrary to the misplaced desire of a minority, the Fitzpatrick Clan Society will never acknowledge any individual declared as such a head over all Fitzpatrick clans. And registering Fitzpatrick of Upper Ossory was also not trivial because there is more than one representative Y-haplotype. Yet, Irish clans are not limited by single direct male bloodlines. Hence, we are pleased to see the Fitzpatrick of Upper Ossory finally registered; they fall primarily under haplotype J-M172 ... FTA78391, that group has a very strong pedigree back to the later Barons, as well as haplotype R-FGC5494 ... A1488.

Joining them are the Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais (Fitzpatrick of the tribe of Cas), who fall under haplotype R-Z255 ... ZZ31_1). Among them (as we demonstrated in our recent article, Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais: an ancient clan rediscovered) are the descendants of a Mac Giolla Phádraig clan that emerged in Upper Ossory in the twelfth-century, some of whom relocated to County Clare, and then had branches spread to Aran, Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon.

A third Fitzpatrick clan registered in 2022 was Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighin (Fitzpatrick of Leinster), who fall under haplotype R-Z255 ... BY2849. Although once almost solely considered from Co. Down, we have members who trace to southern Co. Louth, Co. Kildare, Co. Carlow, and Co. Wicklow. The registration of the Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighin was also long overdue; they are found in numerous pre-1600 AD records, and their haplotype is highly surname-specific, having emerged ca. 1000 AD.

In early December, Clans of Ireland hosted a member's forum via Zoom; Matt and Mike attended. The critical topic of conversation was to provide the reasoning behind the Clans of Ireland's recent decision to set the 'cut-off' date for Irish clan formation at 1691, see:

[Clans of Ireland member's forum December 2022](#)

The Clans of Ireland Christmas newsletter is reproduced here:

A Chairde,

I hope that the next three weeks, during which we observe the Winter Solstice in the Celtic tradition, when we celebrate the birth of Christ in Christian tradition, and when we proclaim the Western New Year throughout much of the World, will bring you much joy with your family and friends.

This may be the darkest period of the year, the time of year when the Sun appears to stand still (solstitium), but it also marks birth and rebirth in many cultures. It is a time of celebration for many of us, a time of feasting, music and dancing in many cultures, particularly our Irish Celtic and Christian traditions.

It is also the time of year when the Board of Directors turns its attention towards our own organisation's annual cultural event, the Clans of Ireland Annual Cultural Summit. Cruinniú Mullaigh Cultúrtha Bliantúí is to be held on May 5th & 6th with the theme: "Gaelic Kindreds in Late Medieval Ireland". This year the Summit will again be a hybrid event to facilitate those who cannot be with us in person, but I strongly suggest that, if possible, you attend in person, so that you can develop personal contacts with other clan leaders, have greater exposure to the organisational strategies of other clans, meet some of the notable academics in our area of interest and generally connect at a social level.

I can tell you that, on the Friday, we have planned to salute the significant part that Christ Church Cathedral has played, since the 11th century, in the history of medieval Dublin and more broadly throughout Ireland's history.

A Clans of Ireland Historic Site Plaque will be unveiled at the Chapter House of the Cathedral, the venue where your Board hold its meetings to this day. The person most notably associated with the Cathedral is Lorcán Ua Tuathail, known in English as Laurence O'Toole (1128 - 1180). He was Archbishop of Dublin at the time of the Norman invasion of Ireland and played a prominent role in mediating between the parties during and after the invasion. He was also a leading light of the Irish Church Reform Movement of the 12th century and was canonised in the early 13th century. In addition to his Uí Tuathail bloodline he was also connected to the O'Byrnes, as his mother was of this branch of the ancient Uí Dunlainge clan.

During the Summit, the Order of Merit awards, that will be announced on St Patrick's Day, the 17th March, will be conferred on an individual or individuals who have had an exceptional impact on Irish culture and heritage or who have caused remarkable distinction to be connected to their Clan name. May I suggest that you might give consideration over the holidays to possible candidates who you consider may deserve to receive such a significant award. Please let me know directly if you wish to nominate such an individual so that I can pass the details to the Council of the Order of Merit.

The winner of the 2022 Chiefs and Clans Essay Competition, Melissa Shiels of Feohanagh, County Limerick, has agreed, in conjunction with receiving her prize, to present her essay, 'No mean diplomat the gift exchange practices of Shane O'Neill, a Renaissance Gaelic lord', at the Annual Summit. This promises to be a reading that will be of interest to all attendees at the Summit. The Essay Competition and the ensuing series of Anthologies has, for over a decade, while promoting scholarly research, provided fresh insight into Medieval Ireland for our Members and those among the public who are interested in Ireland's past. However, you will, by now, also be familiar with the project, developed this year by Clans of Ireland Co-Vice Chair, Luke McNerney to transcribe and publish the ancient genealogical tract, *Linea Antiqua*.

I hope that this finished work will provide a greater number of family historians with greater access to the genealogies that may be of interest to them. Transcription of the manuscript is slightly ahead of schedule and in the New Year the work of editing begins. Following that the introductions and indexing will be undertaken before the work is handed over to the publisher. I would again like to thank the individuals and registered members for their generous support in subscribing to this and to those who were unable to subscribe, please be assured that you will have the opportunity of purchasing your signed copy following publication. You will be kept abreast of progress throughout the next twelve months.

Recently, on the 3rd of December, we held the second Members' Forum by video conference under the direction of Laurie Joyce. This offered Members' representatives an opportunity to exchange ideas and views on particular issues, or concerns, with fellow members including the Directors. Members of the Board led the topics and there followed interesting discussions among members after each presentation. It was a very worthwhile event from my perspective, as representatives could freely express views. I expect that the members' representatives will introduce topics in the future now that the style and format has become established. Indeed, a number of proposals have already been mentioned for the next Forum, which is likely to take place at the end of next June.

Your organisation continues to develop further refinement of its authentication of clans and historical families and the process of establishing the validity of historical and genealogical claims. Application for registration of new members is now undertaken by the Registration Committee, led by the Registrar, Michael O'Crowley. This involves applicants being able to provide unequivocal connection with ancestry or tuatha and subsequent diligent consideration being given to each application by each of the Registration Committee members before a decision or a request for further information is made. This provides our member organisations and other interested parties with confidence in the fundamental validity of the clans and historical families that collectively are Clans of Ireland.

Progress on the new website, initially stymied due to budgetary constraints, is advancing, under the direction of Seán McGrath, with an expectation that completion will occur in January. The most immediate change that you will experience involves membership registration renewal and annual subscription payment. It is expected that this will become much more automated and streamlined, in addition to being GDPR compliant. May I request that you wait until you hear from us in January before effecting your membership registration renewal and annual subscription payment.

I sincerely hope that this festive season will be, above all else, peaceful for you.

Le gach dea-ghnì I gcomhair na Nollag agus na h-Athbhliana,

Gearóid Ó Ceallaigh
Cathaoirleach

Y-DNA

2022 | Update

As with our Journal activity, a lot went on in the Fitzpatrick DNA project in 2022, particularly in the last quarter of the year – so much that it was difficult for Ian and I to keep up. It's not only that we are constantly seeing members added, such that we have recently flown past 700 members, it's that more and more people are realising the power of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) tests, such as FTDNA's BigY, test, and are upgrading.

BigY data takes time to review; ultimately, they inform our clan narratives via publications such as Ian's haplogroup charts, which we post to the DNA project activity feed and the Fitzpatrick Clan Society Facebook group. And as Ian and I look across the major Fitzpatrick haplotypes, we cannot help but note the progress and breakthroughs we have seen with many of them, bringing us closer to understanding who the various Fitzpatrick clans are and where their ancient territories lay.

Presented here is a map of Ireland adapted from Ó Muraíle's 2003 edition of Mac Fhirbhisigh's 'Great Book of Irish Genealogies'; the map overlays Ó Muraíle's interpretation of Irish dynasty and population groups and the major kingdoms of the medieval era. Aligning the results of the Y-DNA study with such historical records and genealogies has enabled the larger genetic groups on the project to be defined by geographic location and pre-Norman Irish dynasties, as follows:

R-FGC11134 ... BY12234 (Bréifne/Connachta)
R-FGC11134 ... BY23574 (Eóghanachta)
R-FGC11134 ... FTA26679 (Eóghanachta)
R-FGC5494 ... CTS2457 (Bréifne/Connachta/Oirghialla)
R-L513 ... BY2631 (Breifne/Oirghialla)
R-L513 ... FGC9811 (Breifne/Oirghialla)
R-L513 ... BY4794 (Breifne/Oirghialla)
R-Z253 ... FT212775 (Dál gCais)
R-Z253 ... FT159792 (Dál gCais)
R-Z253 ... FTB96301 (Dál gCais)
R-Z255 ... BY2849 (Laighin)



Among the clans, some of the Dál gCais descend directly from Scanlan Mac Giolla Phádraig of Ossory, the chieftain of various annalistic records and pedigrees. Also ancient are the Bréifne/Connachta clan (RFGC11134 ... BY12234), who are currently defined as Mac Giolla Phádraig Ulaidh, and the Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighin, who are R-Z255 ... BY2849.

Notable is the clan who are R-FGC5494 ... CTS2457 because they were probably an Ó Maol Phádraig clan that was once associated with the territory of the Northern Uí Néill, but who seem to have pushed south into Bréifne, Connachta, and Oirghialla. The complex and varied origins of those Fitzpatricks who trace to Breifne/Oirghialla are demonstrated by the fact there are a further three Fitzpatrick clans of that region who are of haplotype R-L513. One of those clans is somewhat associated with the surname Maguire and may represent descendants of Giolla Phádraig of Fermanagh of the Maguires.

There is also complexity in the origins of the Fitzpatrick clans of the deep south. It is likely the numerous Fitzpatricks who are under haplotype R-FGC11134 ... CTS4466 are either Ó Maol Phádraig Eóghanachta or Mac Giolla Phádraig Eóghanachta.

No small intrigue is associated with the Fitzpatrick clans who appear to have origins in Ireland after the Norman invasion. Among the Fitzpatricks of J-M172 ... FTA78391 and the various clans of R-FGC5494 ... A1488 is the Fitzpatrick of Ossory. The former has the most robust pedigree links to the Barons of Upper Ossory than any other Fitzpatrick clan. In contrast, the latter is likely to include descendants of a lineage of Upper Ossory that included Mac Costigan and Mac Giolla Phádraig clerics.

Based on Y-DNA and surname associations, we have long stated the pre-Irish origins of haplotype R-A1488 appear to have been among a Norman lineage that may have had earlier Viking or Frankish roots. We consider there is now a robust narrative regarding some close genetic cousins of R-A1488 Fitzpatrick – those of Branán-surnames who are haplotype R-FGC5494 ... BY140757, who probably descend from the de Braham family of Norfolk, that had members (such as Robert de Braham, Sheriff of Kilkenny ca. 1250 AD) arrive in Ireland as part of the de Clare retinue. Later we discuss how recent Y-DNA findings support a Celto-Norman-Viking origin for R-A1488.

In addition to the larger groups mentioned, several mid-sized genetic groups are enjoying increasing definition. These include clans of the broad haplotypes R-M222, R-DF21, R-U106, and I-M223, of whom we aim to gain a greater understanding; if you are members of those groups, please feel free to contact us to discuss advanced Y-DNA testing or seeking out family members who could be added to the knowledge base.

And then there are many smaller groups and individuals with no close Y-DNA matches to any other Fitzpatricks; they include men identified under various R1b, D, E, I, and Q haplotypes.

With the workload Ian and I face interpreting the project data, it was essential to bring in some sub-group support. We did that via the persons of John Branan, who is now a co-administrator of the project.

John's role will be evident to those who know the DNA project well; he is an experienced and diligent genealogist with much knowledge of the descendants of Caron and Kenyon Branan, who settled in the United States in the 17th Century. As mentioned and following on from our 2021 article, 'The Similar-Sounding Surnames of Haplotype BY140757', John has written a detailed article on the various US Branan lineages of R-BY140757, called 'A Similar-Sounding Surname Sequel' - quite the alliteration!

Lastly, it is really great to see FTDNA's new initiatives, such as their Blog and their 'Discover' project, which is the brainchild of Sweden native Göran Runfeldt, head of Research and Development. 'Discover' is executed by a team that includes population geneticists Dr Paul Maier, and Dr Miguel Vilar, the former once being with the National Geographic Genographic Project.

Michael Sager and his talented crew write up and polish FTDNA's narrative material, adding historical accounts, charts, and the like to include with the data.

FTDNA's [Blog](#) recently highlighted ancient Scandinavian DNA, which directly relates to three Fitzpatrick clans.

Both R-FGC5494...FGC5499 and R-L513...BY4152 were found in medieval samples from the island Frösön, Jämtland, in northwest Sweden, and date from 1016-1262 AD; see [The genetic history of Scandinavia from the Roman Iron Age to the present](#).

The haplotype assignments published in the article do not match the sample dating (by isotope analysis) because of the DNA degradation in bone samples over time. Still, they do point to the presence of descendant haplotypes that would have been extant in Jämtland ca. 1016-1262 AD. In the case of R-FGC5499, those descendants were one of three genetic sons: R-A117, who are found today exclusively in France; R-FT94848, whose descendants are found today in France and England; and, R-FGC5511 (which is of significance to R-A1488 Fitzpatricks since it is a direct ancestor), is found in men today who trace to England, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Scotland, and Wales, as well as in an ancient sample from France.

Hence, it is impossible to disconnect R-FGC5499 from French and Scandinavian ancestry during the High Middle Ages. Since the dominant movement of men into England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales ca. 1016-1262 AD was associated with the Norman invasions, this supports what Ian and I have been saying about R-A1488 Fitzpatricks for several years, i.e., they are of Celto-Norman origin, and probably noble stock. It is noteworthy that the ancient samples at Jämtland are from a prominent magnate's farm called Västerhus, which is on an island in Lake Storsjön (see image – is it any wonder the Norman invaders felt at home in Ireland?); the lord and his family there are believed to have served as representatives of the king and to have had a fiscal role in the region.



The situation with the ancient R-BY4152 sample is different. Today R-BY4152 is strongly associated with Sweden, yet its broader ancestral haplotype (R-L513) is unquestionably from the Isles (British) and Ireland. Hence, while R-A1488 Fitzpatricks stem from a Celto-Norman tribe, Fitzpatricks who are R-L513...BY2631 have Swedish cousins, whose ancestor appears to have ‘migrated’ (forcibly or otherwise) to Sweden from the Isles or Ireland during the Viking era; the authors of [The genetic history of Scandinavia from the Roman Iron Age to the present](#) refer to him (but not the R-FGC5499 man) as the ‘individual carrying the British-Irish-characteristic’, i.e., autosomal DNA that is irrefutably British-Irish.

Another Viking-related haplotype revealed via an ancient sample is a sub-group of R-U106 (refer, [Population genomics of the Viking world](#), but note the paywall), which has relevance to our group of men surnamed either Fitzpatrick or Patrick who are R-U106 ... FT128383 because the ancient Y-DNA sample mentioned is R-U106 ... S18951, i.e., their genetic grandfather.

The ancient sample was uncovered in the region now known as Kopparsvik, on the Swedish island of Gotland, in the Baltic Sea, and the man lived between 900 and 1050 AD. While some of the ancestors of R-S18951 are still found in Scandinavia, they also have a strong presence in the Isles and Ireland. It is likely the ancestor of R-FT128383 Fitzpatricks/Patricks arrived in Ireland in either the Viking or the Norman era. It is notable that in recent times some of these Fitzpatricks trace to south Ossory, viz., southern Kilkenny and Waterford. Matt Fitzpatrick recently pointed out a passage from Carrigan,

‘There are several families along the Walsh mountains [southern Kilkenny], who are now called Fitzpatrick, but who were formerly known as Patrick, without the prefix Fitz. They call themselves Pawdhrig in Irish, though they hold, at the same time, that their true Irish name is ‘Ac Shaerha’.

If you would like to understand more about the Fitzpatrick DNA project, the following links and Ian’s haplogroup charts (via the website home page) can be found here:

[Familytreedna.com/groups/fitzpatrick](https://familytreedna.com/groups/fitzpatrick)

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

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

[Haplogroup charts](#)