

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 by Uwe
Liaghiorcal an Droma Bhig, Corcaigh
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O'Mulpatrick of Breifne

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Am samhraidh

Summer | Time

I don't know if this newsletter's cover image, of the Drombeg Stone Circle, was taken on the Summer Solstice, which has recently passed us by, or not, but either way, those in Ireland will be hoping Summer (often late ... or never) and warmer climes are on their way. For those down under, we are past the Winter Solstice now, so Summer is undoubtedly coming.

And this newsletter has a much warmer feel than the last one. When I reached the end of 2023, I was far too busy due to some unexpected workload, and the skimpy December 2023 newsletter reflected that. Here, we have some very nice biographies provided by James Gerrety, a piece on Commandant Matt Fitzpatrick (long overdue, and at the request of one of our members), and the usual updates on the Journal, Facebook, and Clans of Ireland.

About the latter, I was recently very greatly honored to join the Board of Directors of Clans of Ireland. But this is an honour for all of us with the Fitzpatrick Clan Society. It is a bit like getting a personal accolade for a team sport since there is no way on earth my journey as a Fitzpatrick researcher has been solitary labour. And the voice I bring to my fellow directors and other member clans always carries echos of what have learnt from Fitzpatricks over the years. Particularly, I thank Matt, Joan, Bernard, Esther, Karen, Marianne, Sharon, Maureen, Brian, Proinsias, and others, and I will never forget Ian's massive contribution.

It is because of each and every one of you that the Fitzpatrick Clan Society now has a strong presence on the Clans of Ireland board, and the respect of Irish academics and researchers, and Irish clann leadership. And, as you will read, our collective ethos, insights, and hard work are being recognised and proving inspirational to others.

Is mise les meas

Mike Fitzpatrick Editor

JOHN CLEMENT

Biographer | Extraordinaire

James Gerrety has very kindly shared the biographies of several of his ancestors, most notably John Clement Fitzpatrick who was a well-known archivist and biographer. The biographies, which are copyright James Gerrety, follow. An excellent summary of John Clement's career was published by the American Antiquarian Society, reproduced here.

“On February 10, 1940, John Clement Fitzpatrick closed a career of brilliant scholarship to which every student of American history is indebted. He was educated in public and private schools in that vicinity. In 1897 he entered the service of the Library of Congress, with which his name will always be associated. In 1902 he became assistant chief of the Division of Manuscripts, which grew to be one of the world's great collections of source materials under his hands. The need of a national archives department was always close to his heart, and he served for a time on the commission to consider the problem. His scholarly interests lay in the period of the Revolution, and he ventured outside of it only to edit his Autobiography of Martin Van Buren. Within his chosen field he wrote *The Spirit of the Revolution*, *George Washington Colonial Traveller*, and *George Washington Himself*. He edited the *Journals of the Continental Congress* and the *Diaries and Writings of Washington*. It was to edit the last that he resigned from the Library of Congress in 1928, but he continued to do his work there and to serve in an advisory capacity. When he died twenty-six volumes of the *Writings* were published and the remaining eleven were in page proof.

Fitzpatrick's devotion to his task was so great that it was practically impossible to get him away from Washington. He so concentrated his energies that he was not as well-known as he deserved to be outside of his field; it is typical that his honorary degrees were from St. Mary's College, George Washington University, and Washington and Lee University. He did not marry until 1922, but from that date until the unfortunate death of his wife, Elizabeth V. Kelly, in 1933, she and their daughter usurped much of George Washington's place in his conversation and correspondence. Had Fitzpatrick not been so generous of his vast scholarship he could have had a wide popular following. As it was, his time and his unrivalled knowledge of the Revolutionary period were at the disposal of every scholar who brought him a problem. A request which might reasonably have been answered with brief clues often brought forth a veritable monograph on the subject. To him, scholarship was something to be shared, and the sharing of it was one of his great pleasures.

The one strong interest which Fitzpatrick had outside of his field was art, and he was a member of the American Artists Professional League. He was also president of the American Catholic Historical Society and a member of L'Institut Français de Washington, the New York Historical Society, the American-Irish Historical Society, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1928."

"Betty" Gerrety

Elizabeth "Betty" Fitzpatrick was the daughter of **John Clement Fitzpatrick** (b. 1876 - d. 1940) and **Elizabeth Veronica Kelly** (b. 6/30/1887 - d. 7/19/1933). She was born in Philadelphia, PA. probably because her mother Elizabeth's family was from Trenton, N.J. (20 miles north.) She was baptized at Willings Alley Church (Old St. Joseph's) on Society Hill in Philadelphia. She was a single child. She lost her mother when she was 8 years old and was later orphaned upon the death of her father when she was 14 years. Her aunt **Katherine "Dee-Dee" Fitzpatrick (Rogers)**, sister to her father, became her legal guardian at that time and raised her to adulthood. These losses early in her childhood years helped to form her strength of character. She became a very strong, outspoken, family oriented, God loving and devoted follower of the Roman Catholic faith as many of her ancestors were. As a young girl she spent hours at her father's side at the Library of Congress. She attended boarding school. She went to **Immaculata Elementary and High School**, an all girls select school on Yuma Street at Tenley Circle in N.W. Washington D.C. She graduated in 1941 as the United States entered World War II. That school later closed its doors and was sold to The American University. Following high school she attended **Trinity College in Washington D.C.** where she earned a B.A. degree in History in 1945. This was rare for women in that era.

Later as a young woman she considered entering a Roman Catholic convent to become a nun and serving God in this way. However she remarked once that she believed God's plan for her lay in a different direction. She believed instead his plan for her was to marry and raise a family. She met and married **Joseph Manning Gerrety** (b. 7/24/1916 - d. 8/14/1987) of Ashtabula, Ohio after World War II. **They were married Oct. 10, 1950** at the St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill in Wash. DC. She took God's plan to heart and raised (8) children: **Catherine (Cathy), Joseph Jr. (Jo-Jo), Mary (May-May), John (Johnny), Donald, James (Jim), Paul and Christina (Chrissy)**. In the early years of their marriage they lived on **5718 Massachusetts Avenue** in Bethesda, MD. before moving to **4735 Tilden Street** in the Spring Valley area of N.W. Washington DC **two doors down from Richard Nixon** just prior to him becoming Vice President to President Dwight Eisenhower. As the family grew, they later moved a few blocks south to a larger house at **4015 51st Street** in the Spring Valley neighborhood. **Vice President Lyndon Johnson** lived one block over at 4040 52nd Street during the Kennedy Administration until JFK assassination.

It is no surprise that her career focused on librarian work as she followed in her fathers footsteps. She worked at the **Library of Congress** in Washington D.C. in her early years. Later after years raising a family she began work in 1974 at the **Little Falls Public Library** in Bethesda, Maryland. She then worked between 1978 and 1982 at the **Paul Himmelfarb Health Services Library at George Washington University** in Washington DC and thereafter between 1982 and 1993 at **Georgetown University's Lauinger Library** also in Washington until she retired. After retirement she spent time living at three various monasteries around the country to fulfill her earlier desire for a devotional life to God. She was an avid reader and enjoyed travel. She had visited Europe and the holy land on pilgrimage many times in her life. She loved to tell stories and speak of acquaintances and the people she knew throughout her life. She loved her father and her family. She was a conservative family oriented women who counted many priests, nuns and clergy amongst her many friends. She was a staunch practicing Catholic that attended mass at Annunciation Church in Washington D.C. nearly every day. She died of a heart attack at age 81 at her residence at Chevy Chase House, an assisted living residence at 5420 Connecticut Avenue, Apt # 307 in the Chevy Chase neighborhood of Washington, D.C. only a few blocks away from where her mother Elizabeth Kelly passed 73 years before.

Elizabeth Lavery Fitzpatrick

born: 4/4/1924 Philadelphia, PA
died: 7/3/2005 Washington DC Age 81
Buried: Congressional Cemetery, Wash. DC
Our mother.



"Betty" Fitzpatrick Gerrety, our mother,
as a young woman



Photo of Elizabeth Fitzpatrick Gerrety and
husband Joseph Manning Gerrety in the early
1950's

John Fitzpatrick, author & historian

John Clement Fitzpatrick was an author, scholar, historian, librarian and artist. He was born in Washington, D.C. on August 10, 1876 to **James Nicholas Fitzpatrick** b. 12/5/1850 - d. 2/17/1916 and **Elizabeth Ann Combs** b. 9/26/1852 - d. 1/25/1936. He was a true Washingtonian. John attended Washington High School in D.C. and graduated in 1894 at 18. He began working for the **Library of Congress** in 1897 (age 21) and became the **Assistant Chief of the Manuscripts Division there from 1902 until 1928**. He was primarily responsible for developing the Manuscripts Division which was non-existent when he began. It became his life's work. It included the collecting and recording of the earliest founding documents of our nation. In 1918 he received an A.M. degree from St. Mary's College in Pennsylvania, and later received an honorary L.H.D. degree from George Washington University, in D.C. in 1926. John received an honorary D. Litt. from Washington & Lee University, VA in 1932 (age 56).

John married twice. His first wife was **Louise Tracy Hull**. They were married 10/28/1908, in New York City. She died less than three years later on 9/19/1911 of Addison's Disease. John married secondly to **Elizabeth Veronica Kelly** (also our ancestor) of Trenton, New Jersey, our grandmother. She was b. 6/30/1887 in Long Branch, N. J. & died 7/17/1933 (age 46) in Chevy Chase MD. John and Elizabeth were married 8/19/1922 in Philadelphia, PA. They had one child together, **Elizabeth Lavery Fitzpatrick**, our mother, born 4/4/1924 in Philadelphia, PA, south of Trenton. He would have been 48 when she was born. They were living in Chevy Chase, MD at 6508 Brookeville Road per the 1930 census. When he died in 1940, our mother was left an orphan.

John was also an artist and was comfortable in the pen and ink and watercolor mediums. Our family has kept some of his art. John's life long devotion and interest in George Washington, led him to publish a vast amount on the nation's first president, including two biographies; **George Washington, Colonial Traveler 1732-1799** in 1927 and **George Washington Himself** in 1933. John also edited and compiled many collections held by the Library of Congress for their publication including **Washington's Expenses as Commander in Chief**, **Calendars of Washington Manuscripts**, **Correspondence with the Continental Congress**, **Correspondence with the Military**, **List of Early Washington Papers**, **Franklin Manuscripts**, **Vernon-Wagner Navy Papers**, **Autobiography of Martin Van Buren** (1920), **The Spirit of the Revolution** (1924) **Diaries of George Washington** (1925), **Washington as a Religious Man** (1931), and **Some Historic Houses, Their Builders and Their Plans** (1939). **In his time he was recognized as the country's leading authority on George Washington.** In 1928 John left the Library of Congress when he was appointed by the U.S. Congress to head the **George Washington Bicentennial Commission**, organized to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Washington in 1932. Among the Commission's projects was the publication of the monumental **The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799**, which he edited and compiled over twelve years. John C. Fitzpatrick died in February, 1940 while working on the 39th volume (of 40) of the **Writings of Washington**. This became the defining work of his life. It is considered by historians to be amongst the most important first source documents of Washington's letters that are used by researchers & biographers of the first President then and now. In his era, he was widely considered the nation's top authority on our first president. **He is our grandfather.**



John Fitzpatrick at his desk in 1937 working on the Writings of George Washington

Our mother Elizabeth Fitzpatrick Gerrety before her death, donated to Georgetown University's Lauinger Library in Washington D.C., The John C. Fitzpatrick Papers. These papers include the correspondence, manuscripts, notes and sketches of our grandfather John Clement Fitzpatrick together with genealogical material about the Fitzpatrick and Combs families including clippings, family journals and a large number of photographs. The genealogical portion of the collection was put together in part by Elizabeth Fitzpatrick Gerrety, the only child of John C. Fitzpatrick. Included in the collection are also sets of her correspondence, notes and clippings. The papers comprise 3.5 linear feet, arranged in 7 boxes consisting of 73 folders.

Dr. John Clement Fitzpatrick

born: 8/10/1876 Washington D.C.
died: 2/10/1940 age 63
Washington D.C.
Buried: Congressional Cemetery,
in Wash. D.C. Our grandfather.



John Clement Fitzpatrick



John Clement Fitzpatrick's Grave at Congressional Cemetery in Wash. DC. His wife & our grandmother, Elizabeth Veronica Kelly is interred in the same grave.

James “Fitz” Fitzpatrick

James Nicholas Fitzpatrick was the son of **John Clement Fitzpatrick** (b. 11/23/1805 - d. 2/9/1862) and **Mary Cecilia Hickey** (b. 2/22/1807 - d. 3/6/1864) of Washington DC. “Fitz” as he was commonly known, became a “page” in the U.S. Senate in Washington D.C. in April, 1862 at age 12 following in his father’s career as a clerk in the Senate. This would have been during the **American Civil War** in

Abraham Lincoln’s tenure as President of the United States. The young Washington City began to grow as a result of the administration of the Civil War and the creation of defensive forts surrounding the capitol anticipating the siege by the Confederacy that never came. He would have been age 15 when the Civil War ended and President Lincoln was assassinated three weeks later in nearby Ford’s

Theatre. He married **Elizabeth “Lizzie” Ann Combs** (b. 9/26/1852 - d. 1/25/1936.) after the war on 6/4/1872 at St. Peter’s Catholic Church on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. They lived at 137 C Street SE, Washington DC, 2 doors down from the same church. (See the photo below.) They also lived at 212 First Street, SE Wash DC in 1911. That home was torn down. **He was father to the second John**

Clement Fitzpatrick (1876-1940.)

On 11/13/1877, at age 26, “Fitz” entered into a contract with Harris M. Combs (his brother-in-law.) to create a general retail **grocery** business on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. Harris’ father, Robert Combs, had also been a grocer. *This per the original contract in the Fitzpatrick Papers at Georgetown University’s Lauinger Library.* The business was called “H.M. Combs & Co.” Harris Combs managed the daily business operations. “Fitz” was his silent partner. At age 29, “Fitz” became

Assistant Chief of Division of Appointments in the United States Treasury Department on July 1, 1880. This position he held for 36 years of devoted service. According to an article published just after his death in the Washington Post, “Fitz” was considered the **“most valuable clerk in the Treasury Department”** during his tenure and he was loved and respected by his fellow staff members for his

“Inherent worth, his clean living and his genial temperament.” He died recuperating from an operation to remove a lump in his side that he never fully recovered from and he suffered for 2 weeks prior to his death. He is our ancestor.

James Nicholas Fitzpatrick

Born: 12/5/1850 Washington DC

Died: 2/17/1916 Washington DC age 65

Buried: Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC

Our 1st Great Grandfather



Photograph of James Nicholas Fitzpatrick from the original at Georgetown University’s Lauinger



Photograph of the elegant home of James Fitzpatrick and Elizabeth Combs at 137 C Street SE Washington DC on Capitol Hill. It is occupied today by the lobbying division of the American Dental Association.



Grave stone of James Fitzpatrick and his wife Elizabeth Combs at Congressional Cemetery. He was so beloved by those that knew him that this stone was paid for by his fellow staff at the Treasury Dept.

The Fitzpatricks of Washington

The new capitol city of Washington D.C. was founded in 1800 and carved from the farm land of Maryland and Virginia. Both Mary and John can be counted as among the earliest Washingtonians. In addition, they would have been young children that lived through the War of 1812 when the British attacked the capitol city and burned it to the ground in 1814. They were **married in 7/17/1827** in Wash. DC. They initially

John Clement Fitzpatrick

was the only child of **Nicholas Fitzpatrick** (born approx. 1782 in Virginia?) and **Henrietta Simms** (of St. Mary's County, MD.) Henrietta died 2 weeks after giving birth to John. Nicholas possibly was a ships joiner at the Washington Navy Yard in DC and also at the Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk, VA. John was **financial clerk to J.W. Forney, the Sec. to the U.S. Senate**. He was **President of the Board of Commissioners for the New Centre Market** in DC. John died of Pneumonia after 3 days of intense suffering. His obituary in The Daily National Intelligencer 2/11/1862 of Wash. DC noted that "he was honored and revered by thousands who knew his character and admired his

lived at New Jersey Ave. and South B St. SE on Capitol Hill. They had 9 children: Mary Ellen, Johanna Frances "Jo" or "Josephine," Rose, William J., John, William Anna "Willie," Cecelia Ann, Ann Francis "Nanny" and **James Nicholas** (from whom we are descended.)

Capt. John Clement Fitzpatrick

born: 11/5/1805 Virginia died: 2/9/1862 Wash. D.C. of pneumonia. Age 56

Mary Cecelia Hickey

born: 8/22/1807 Washington D.C. died: 3/6/1864, Wash. D.C. Age 56 (or New York.) Both are buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Wash. D.C. Our 2nd great grandparents.



The **Stewart R. Mott House**, 122 Maryland Ave, NE where the Fitzpatrick family lived in the 1840's and was previously known as "The Parkington."



Portrait of Mary Cecelia Hickey. She was sister to Gen. William Hickey.



Portrait of John Clement Fitzpatrick



Their gravestone at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Wash. DC



Mary Cecelia Hickey



John C. Fitzpatrick

These c. 1850's photographs of Mary and John exist at the Georgetown Lauinger Library in the Fitzpatrick Papers in the Special Collections Division. Legend has it that when the famous author **Charles Dickens** met John, he described him as "the handsomest man in Washington."

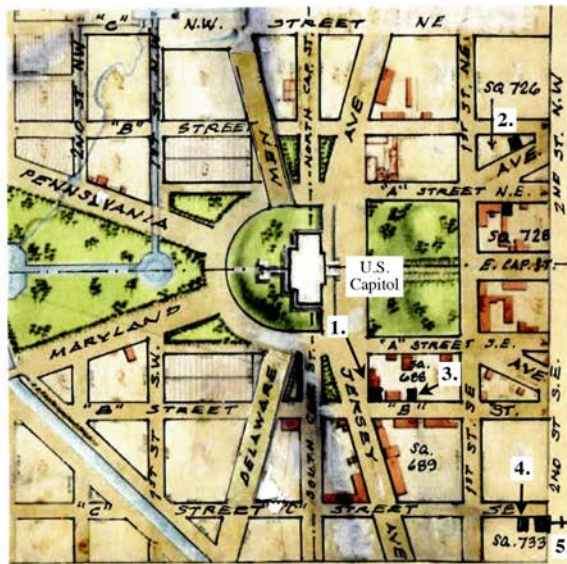
James F. Hickey

married **Mary Ann Linch (Lynch)** on 9/14/1789 in Frederick County, Maryland. Mary Ann was born 1773 in Maryland. She lived in Frederick City. She died on 7/18/1850 in Washington D.C. Mary Ann is buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Frederick County occupied what is today Montgomery County and all of current Washington DC. James and Mary Ann Hickey are two of the earliest Washingtonians. They had 5 children: General William J. Hickey, Rev. John F. Hickey, S.S. of Baltimore, Prof. James D. Hickey taught at Mt. St. Mary's College, MD, Sister William Anna (a nun), Sister Josephine (a nun) and **Mary Cecelia Hickey, 1807-1864, our ancestor who married Capt. John Clement Fitzpatrick**. The Hickey's are shown living on Capital Hill in the 1790's before the U.S. Federal Government was established in Washington City in 1800.

See the map of the location of their home below.

The Hickey family saw the War of 1812 up close. Their home was a block from the new Capitol building on New Jersey Avenue near B Street south. When the British invaded the city on Aug. 24 1814, they burned the White House, the Capitol and the Library of Congress amongst other buildings that evening. **The British Officers that burned the Capitol occupied, under force, the Hickey's house that night** and on the next day surprisingly paid James Hickey for their overnight stay. The British continued their pillaging of the city the next day on Aug. 25 (until a hurricane interrupted their siege) forcing a hasty retreat back to Bladensburg, MD later that evening.

Hickey family lore tells that this James F. Hickey shot at the infamous British General Robert Ross, who led the raid on the Capitol City. **James F. Hickey died in Hagerstown, Maryland in late 1814 or 1815 coming back from this War.** (Sources: Evening Star Newspaper, Washington D.C., Aug. 6, 1916, Page 7. and April 7, 1907, page 12.)



1815 map of Capitol Hill, Washington City. Note that most blocks have no buildings as the streets were recently layout.

James F. Hickey

Born: circa 1770, Maryland

Died: late 1814 or 1815

Hagerstown, Maryland

Our 3rd great grandfather

was a descendant of an old Maryland family. We don't know his parents but he apparently was a soldier in the Maryland line of the U.S.

Continental Army likely just after Revolutionary War. According to his records in the War Department he held the rank and performed the duties of Paymaster.

It is reported that the ancestors of the Hickey's came to this country with the "New Albion" colony headed by Sir Edmund Plowden of Southhampton, England. In 1634, Edward was granted a patent under the by King Charles I for a Palatine province (colony) called "New Albion" that covered the land on present day New Jersey, all of Long Island, eastern Pennsylvania an part of Delaware. The colony never took hold.

(Sources: Evening Star Newspaper, Washington D.C., Aug. 6, 1916, Page 7. and The Compendium of American Genealogy, Vol IV, page 184.)



Portrait of Burning of the White House
the evening of August 24, 1814 after having burned the U.S. Capitol Building during the War of 1812.

The Map key below shows the U.S. Capitol and the nearby location of the Hickey's home on the corner of New Jersey Ave SE and some of his descendants. The site of SQ. 688 today is occupied by the south grounds of the Capitol. "B" Street south was later changed to Independence Avenue.

1. James & Mary Hickey's home on NJ. Ave. in 1814. SQ. 688
2. John Clement Fitzpatrick & Mary Cecelia Hickey's home at 122 Maryland Ave. NE in 1830's. SQ. 726. "The Parkington" House.
3. John Clement Fitzpatrick & Mary Cecelia Hickey's home after moving to "B" Street SE in 1848. SQ. 688.
4. James Nicholas Fitzpatrick & Elizabeth Combs home at 137 C St. SE in 1880. SQ. 733 next to St. Peter's.
5. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church.

THE JOURNAL

2024 | Daltons, O'Mulpatrick's, and more

So far in 2024, we have published two articles. 'The Daltons of Kildalton, Part I' and 'The Fitzpatricks of Raheen and Kilcready, Co. Kilkenny'.

The first article, which delves into a topic I had not yet planned to explore, was inspired by a set of recently published records at The Virtual Treasury. These records shed new light on the connection between the Kilkenny Daltons and the Fitzpatricks, a connection that has been the subject of much controversy. For those unfamiliar with the history of the Y-DNA project and the intriguing link it uncovered, I will provide a brief overview.

Quite early in the Y-DNA project, some twenty years ago, it was discovered that various Ossory Fitzpatricks and Kilkenny Daltons shared direct paternal ancestry, which was characterised by unusual matching Y-DNA mutations. Seamus Brennan, a former administrator of the Y-DNA project, explained to me the shared mutations were considered extremely low probability since they involved a three-step mutation within the low mutation rate Standard Tandem Repeat (STR), DYS390 (from 24 to 21), AS WELL AS a three-step mutation within the low mutation rate STR, YCAIIa (from 19 to 22); Seamus referred to this seemingly improbable scenario, perhaps only as a North American could, as a 'double-triple'!

At the time, there were differing theories about the origin of these mutations. Some suggested they occurred shortly after the last Ice Age (ca. 10,000 BC), pointing to a very ancient Fitzpatrick-Dalton most recent common ancestor (MRCA). However, it was later discovered that these mutations were not as rare as initially believed, and the Fitzpatrick-Dalton MRCA likely lived in the 'surname era'. This revelation, while fascinating, also sparked a deep controversy. Many of the Laois and Kilkenny Fitzpatricks firmly believed they were descendants of the Irish Mac Giolla Phádraig dynasts of Ossory, while the Daltons claimed their lineage traced back to a Norman family that arrived in Ireland after the 1169 invasion. The incompatibility of these paternal narratives was glaring.

While the traditional Fitzpatrick of Ossory narrative had been well presented, notably by Carrigan, this was not the case for the Daltons, who traced their Irish origins to deep in southern Co. Kilkenny, near the Wexford border, notably some once being domiciled in a townland that came to bear their name – Kildalton, formerly Kilmodalla. Yet, Carrigan only traced the emergence of the Daltons in Kilkenny to 1382, albeit noting their surname was once Daton, or D’Autun – clearly Norman. Modern Dalton researchers found earlier records from 1314 that placed a likely ‘Dalton’ (Hugh Datoun)’ in south Kilkenny. Still, reconciling a common Fitzpatrick-Dalton paternity was not trivial.

The article, ‘The Daltons of Kildalton, Part I,’ brings more clarity and presents records never previously analysed, which evidence the Daltons of southern Kilkenny were a Norman Irish gentry family who likely descend from Richard de Antōn, who was Sheriff of Waterford ca. 1291. Richard was probably the son of Hugh de Antōn of Limerick, whose florit was ca. 1260-1280. The article presents much more; for example, the de Antōn toponym was probably taken from the village of Antone in Cornwall, England. Other well-known Norman Irish families from Antone, notably the de la Rochelle (or de Rupe) and Arcedekne (Archdeacon), who appeared in Limerick just a few decades after the 1169 invasion, were inextricably connected with the family de Antōn.

I won’t spoil the read further, but if you decide to look, also consider our article on the de Braham (later Branan, Brennan, etc.), another Norman-Irish gentry family of Kilkenny, and our article on the Mac Giolla Phádraig clerics of Limerick. Also, if the Y-DNA speak overwhelms you a little, consider viewing the Y-DNA presentations on our YouTube channel.

The article on ‘Fitzpatricks of Raheen and Kilcready, Co. Kilkenny’ is much more straightforward, yet also presents never-before-published material that will be of interest to Fitzpatrick genealogists. Notable is reference to Carrigan’s understanding that Fitzpatricks began to settle southern Kilkenny in the seventeenth century.

I don’t yet know how the rest of the year’s articles will pan out. Very close to publication is the second in the series, ‘Ó Maol Phádraig: the name, the people, and the clans’, which has been a complex labour because it deals with the occurrences of the given-name Máel Pátraic, and the related clan associated surnames, in the most robust Irish genealogies. I’m excited about the possibility of a couple more articles being published by the end of the year. With a wealth of publishable material, I’m constantly juggling between several fascinating topics.

THE ARCHIVES

1922 | Clones Tragedy

This piece is reproduced from the Saturday 18 February 1922 edition of the *Anglo-Celt*, where it covered much of the front page and page three. It recounts the events of the previous Saturday, on which I.R.A. Commandant Matthew Fitzpatrick was shot dead at the Clones railway station.

FIVE MEN SHOT DEAD AND MANY WOUNDED

About, 5.30 on Saturday evening Commandant Fitzpatrick, I.R.A., and four “Northern” Special police were shot dead in Clones Railway Station, two Specials and two civilians being seriously wounded. There were at first conflicting reports as to what occurred but the facts as elicited make it clear that the Specials who were armed in Free State territory, were ordered by Commandant Fitzpatrick to put up their hands and that the Commandant was almost immediately shot dead by a Special, whereupon eleven I.R.A. men opened fire inflicting the casualties stated. Some other Specials were less severely wounded, and others taken prisoners.

It is officially pointed out that Commandant Fitzpatrick did everything possible to avoid the use of firearms, although the official version from Belfast alleges that the Specials were shot first, and that Commandant Fitzpatrick was subsequently killed. The evidence at the inquest shows that the latter report is wholly incorrect.

Commandant-General O’Duffy, who, with Commandant McKeown, visited Clones and district on Sunday, and whose investigations bear out the above statement regarding the origin of the affair told a Press representative that he could not guarantee peace in that part of the country until the entire Divisional Staff of the I.R.A., which had been unlawfully arrested when going to a football match at Derry three weeks ago, was released.

The Government of Northern Ireland has suggested to the British Government that Monaghan and other “danger points” beyond the boundary of “Northern” Ireland be garrisoned by British troops to secure the release of the Unionists taken as hostages last week should the other steps fail.

WHAT HAPPENED

A detachment of about 20 Northern "Specials", fully armed, arrived by train at Clones from Newtownards about 5.15 p.m. One of them got out of the carriage with his rifle, and word was conveyed to the I.R.A. headquarters. Commandant Fitzpatrick, with about 11 men; went to the station. When the "Specials" had entered, the Enniskillen train and were about to depart Commandant Fitzpatrick approached their compartment and ordered them to put up their hands. He was speaking to a "Special" who put up his hands, and pointed out that there would be no shooting if hands were, put up. A "Special", seems to have left another compartment along the footway, and fired at the Commandant, who was shot through the head, and fell on the buffers between two carriages.

Rapid firing then took place from rifles, revolvers; and a machine-gun, which was brought into action on the platform. It has been stated that it was only by an accident that a machine-gun was at their disposal, as they were about leaving for the Brigade headquarters, and visited the station first. The machine-gun was brought into play at once on the carriage from which the shot was fired. The fire was returned by the "Specials" and the fierce duel continued for about 20 minutes. The I.R.A. say they were, impeded, as every effort was made, and with success, to spare the civilians, who lay terrified in the compartments



TERRIFIED PASSENGERS

The firings for a few seconds was terrific. At the time of the occurrence four trains were pulled up at the different platforms, the occupants of which, in order to escape the flying bullets, flung themselves on the floors of the carriages, and screams could be heard from the frightened lady travellers, who became hysterical and rushed from the station.

Persons on the platform were ordered to stand clear with faces to the walls. Some managed, however, to gain access to waiting-rooms, and were kept there for an hour. The dead "Specials" (Sgt. Doherty and Constables McMahon, Lewis and Abraham) and wounded were removed from the train, the former being taken charge of by I.R.A. and R.I.C. and conveyed to barracks, thence to Enniskillen.

Commandant Fitzpatrick, after being struck, was attended by a medical man, who pronounced life extinct.

Rev. C. Ward, C.C., administered the last rites of the Church to the dying man. Subsequently the dead body was removed to I.R.A. headquarters, Clones, and thence to the Workhouse chapel. The remains were removed on Monday to St. Joseph's Parish Church, and the funeral took place on Wednesday in Drumalee, Belturbet, there being an immense throng of mourners. The wounded and prisoners were also taken to the workhouse, the former receiving medical treatment, while the prisoners were removed to a destination some distance away.

The I.R.A. managed to get the people out at once. When the Specials were about being isolated they surrendered, stepping from the carriages with hands up and arms abandoned.

WHAT PASSENGERS SAY

An eyewitness says that the I.R.A. were in process of shifting troops through the County Monaghan, and that a party of these were on the platform at Clones, with machine-guns, when the train from Tynan containing the Specials drew alongside the platform.

A Clones man in the Dublin seat, lay flat on the seat, and a British soldier took cover under the seat. Two bullets passed over the soldier's back, one cutting his tunic and tearing his back.

A young man named Scollins, who was returning to Castleblayney, had the skin of the palm of his hand torn by a bullet. One gentleman, who was the platform, says he saw about twelve unarmed British soldiers rushing from the Derry train and taking cover behind the water-tank.

Dr. Walsh, Bundoran, was in a carriage in which two of the Specials were killed, and he, with Dr. O'Mahony, a lady practitioner from Monaghan, who was also on the train, rendered first aid. Dr. Kieran attended three of the wounded, one of whom escaped into some gardens.

He had received six wounds, two bullet wounds in each arm and two in the abdomen. His condition is very critical. Of two other Specials one was wounded in the lung and in both legs. The other had a compound fracture of the right leg, a bullet wound in the left knee, and an injury to his head. Neither is expected to recover: They were removed to Enniskillen. 'One whose name is Jinks comes from Cookstown district, and the other, Cummins, is from Strabane. A Special named Burnside, Derry, was shot through the lung, but managed to get to the R.I.C. barracks where another man named George Lendrum of Five-mile-town, gained admission with a shattered arm. They were treated by Dr. Tierney, and motored to Monaghan Infirmary.

A soldier who travelled by the train said that in the compartment in which he travelled there were four constables, three of whom were wounded and: one shot dead. The soldier states that the whole occurrence took place so rapidly that it was some little time before people realised what had really happened. He states that immediately the first shots rang out all the persons in the carriage threw themselves to the floor for protection.

Mr. Patrick Crumley, formerly Nationalist M.P. for South Fermanagh, who was in the same carriage, was wounded in the hand. A number of others who were in the carriage, both, men and women, fainted. Mr. J. B. Gillin, J.P., of Enniskillen, was also in the same compartment, but escaped uninjured.

A Tyrone man was travelling on the Dundalk to Derr train. He said he had been attending to some business at Clones, and was at the station on the arrival of the train when a terrific outburst of firing took place on the platform. The railway officials fled for shelter wherever available and the passengers on the train dashed from the carriages, scattering for safety in all directions, the women folk being in a hysterical state while the station reverberated with shrieks and groans which rose above the sound of the firing.

For a short time he (the passenger interviewed) did not realise what had actually happened. After the shooting had ceased the I.R.A. had the three dead bodies of Special Constables carried into a waiting room, and the passenger was informed that the entire party of Specials were, killed, wounded or made prisoners.

I.R.A. REINFORCEMENTS

It is said that no hopes are entertained for two of the wounded, who are in a very critical condition. Immediately after the occurrence took place, the town lighting was extinguished, and in shops and private houses the orders were "lights out". The streets and approaches to Clones were at once put under control of the I.R.A., who came flocking in from their parts of Co. Monaghan as well as from Fermanagh and Cavan. Lorries loaded with I.R.A. were passing through the chief town of the latter county on Sunday night and Sunday morning. At 11. o'clock Mass in the Cathedral, Cavan Commandant McKeon was present on his return from Clones.

During the night in Clones nothing could be heard but the marching of armed men and sharp, military orders. It was feared an attack might have been launched on the town during the night by Specials across the Six County border, but, nothing of the kind occurred, so the town was quiet.

Some of the captured Specials admitted that it was owing to fear of an attack they came by train. They expressed regret at the fire, which ended the Commandant's life being opened so rapidly. Commandant Fitzpatrick is a native of Kilgarrow, Newtownbutler, and was twice wounded in action before the truce. On the second occasion of his wounding in the Rosslea district he was rescued by some comrades when under hot fire and conveyed to the house of a farmer in the Newbliss district, where he was placed under medical treatment. He was then arrested, and removed to Monaghan County Infirmary by military, from which place he was rescued by his comrades from an armed guard of military, having a most dramatic escape through a window.

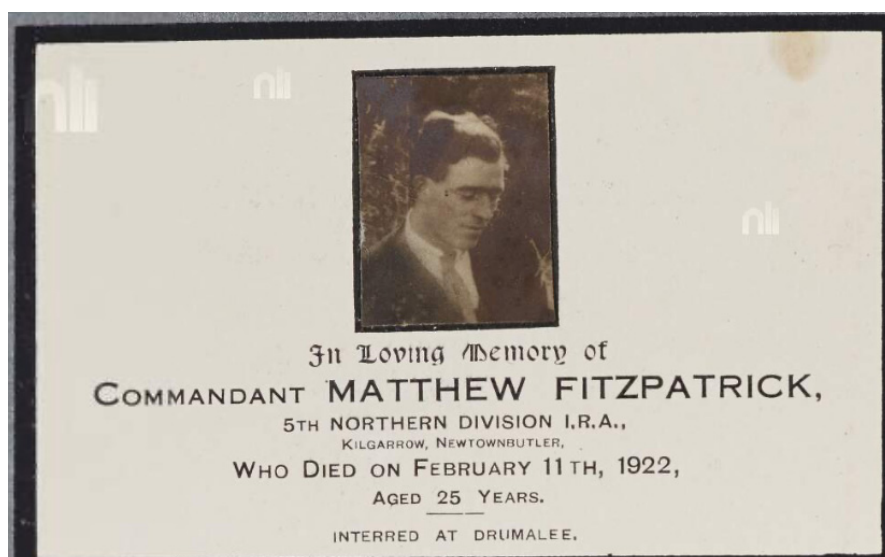
The deceased Commandant was very popular, and was described by comrades in the I.R.A. as a brave, fearless soldier, who would at all times risk his own life rather than a comrade's. He is said to have been always opposed to the use of arms if possible, and even latterly gave good advice to his comrades, not to take too many risks. He is one of a family of three sons, all of whom have undergone long terms of imprisonment, and his father's home on the banks of Lough Erne has been raided and searched scores of times.

On Sunday there was a continuous stream of people to visit his remains, and subsequently to the Catholic Church. In the Church of the Sacred Heart, Clones, Very Rev. Dr. McMeel P.P., referred in very feeling terms to the sad occurrence, and exhorted the people to patience and forbearance.

A visit to the railway premises gives evidence of bullet marks and traces of blood to be seen here and there, while shattered windows are also conspicuous. Clones railway station is situated practically on the verge of the county area and had the train got away a few seconds would have landed the Specials across the border, the firing being opposite the stationmaster's office, in which a clerk named Mr. Martin was engaged working; his escape was marvellous.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The following was issued from the Liaison Office, Dublin, on Monday night: "The train arrived at Clones at 5.30 p.m., containing a number of "B" Special Police, who went to the waiting room at the station. Although Clones is outside the Six County area, the Specials carried arms. Word was conveyed to the I.R.A. that these armed Specials were at the platform. When the I.R.A. troops got to the platform they, discovered that the Specials had gone into the railway carriages, but that the engine was not attached to the train. They called on the Specials to get out and put up their hands. This was refused, and instead the Specials opened fire, and shot Commandant Fitzpatrick through the head, killing him instantly. The body was carried into the waiting room. The I.R.A. troops again asked the Special several times to get out and surrender, They would not do so, but fired again. The I.R.A. then took up positions and opened fire on the carriages. After an interchange of shots, there were four Specials killed, and two badly wounded. A few civilians were slightly wounded. Five of the surviving Specials were taken prisoners to the barracks at Clones, from which they were subsequently removed under arrest.



CLANS OF IRELAND

Finte na hÉireann | Update



Matt Fitzpatrick of Ó Máol Phádraig Bréifne represented the Fitzpatrick Clan Society at the 2024 AGM and Cultural Summit, held in April in Dublin. Matt reported he had a great time meeting clans folk and engaging with presentations.

Cathaoirleach, Gearóid Ó Ceallaigh has outlined his vision for his last year in office.

“During the next year I would like to highlight how Irish clan culture was such an influential aspect of Irish heritage. Ireland is not unique in this respect, but our self-awareness and sense of distinction has slowed the incursion of homogeneity that has become so prevalent through much of the World. Our native Irish distinctiveness is something that we should be really very proud of”.

He also stated, “a number of people have written to me regarding the procedures relating to the installation of new leadership within their clan organisation. Let me say that each member organisation is self-governed, generally by a clan constitution or similar and that leadership succession planning should be integral to this. Clans of Ireland does not interfere in the internal arrangements of its members”.

On this note, The Fitzpatrick Clan Society has such a constitution, but our executive is non-hierarchical since we view all Fitzpatrick Clans as equals, with no single clan having any right to claim pre-eminent ownership of the Fitzpatrick surname or to lord it over other Fitzpatrick clans. What our five member clans registered with Clans of Ireland choose to do concerning their own leadership is entirely over to them, noting Clans of Ireland guidance is:

Leadership of a modern clan organisation is rarely within the gift of an individual and is usually by election respecting either complete democracy or the ancient Brehon system. Ceannairi are considered to be leaders of their clan organisations who hold office while they are supported by their clansmen (men and women). They are expected to represent their clan organisations, particularly at Clans of Ireland meetings and gatherings. It is worth noting that while Clans of Ireland

only acknowledges the hereditary titles of the members of the Standing Council of Chiefs and Chieftains and no others, it offers no opinion on the legal status relating to property, inheritance or other legal matters in any jurisdiction”.

Another Clans of Ireland initiative is to begin “a campaign to improve knowledge of traditional dress and debunk the associated myths”. One such myth is that ‘Fitzpatrick tartans’, and related attire such as kilts, have any traditional relevance to the Irish – they are modern inventions, the equivalent of invasive exotic pests that threaten native species, and simply another tool in the ongoing colonising project, sadly often wielded by ignorant diasporic enthusiasts. Proinsias Mag Fhionnghaile CIOM, is the cultural and historical advisor to The Fitzpatrick Clan Society for this very reason, so that we have a highly authoritative voice to counter the baloney, noting that Proinsias also serves on two the Clans of Ireland committees: ‘Traditional Gaelic Irish Dress’ and ‘Flags and Emblems’.

Gearóid also announced the theme for the 2025 Annual Cultural Summit would focus on one of the main objectives of the Board, being “to advance further awareness, particularly among the Clans of Ireland member organisations, of how surnames and kindred are not necessarily synonymous nor, indeed, related”. And, by example, Gearóid referred to the work of The Fitzpatrick Clan Society, demonstrating that we have been at the forefront of such progress. Gearóid’s vision in the last year of his term is clear.

“My primary focus will be in trying to get not only our member organisations, but also the interested public, the other cultural pillar organisations and the government departments, North and South, to better understand how surnames and kindred are not necessarily synonymous nor, indeed, related. Therefore, it is vital that the protocols that are in place are rigorously implemented, particularly relating to the use of the member clan names. The registration protocols not only accurately differentiate clans from one another within the Clans of Ireland Register, but it is also crucial in authoritatively identifying those clans that are accurately associated with geographic areas in history. Therefore, it is not the Fitzpatricks, it is always Ó Maol Phádraig Bréifne, Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais or Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighean, etc. They are different member organisations and should be treated as such through their correct kindred or clan name. I hope that by seeing this written in our Registry of Clans others will be inspired to register their kindred groups without feeling a sense that ‘we are too small, we were not a great clan’.

I cannot stress forcefully enough how important this is and I hope that it will become one of, if not the greatest legacy of Clans of Ireland.”

FACEBOOK

Recent | Highlights

**Bernadette Clancy**
★ Rising contributor · May 1 · 🌐

**Belfast Telegraph** · May 1 · 🌐

Eithne Scott-Lennon tells Sean Pollock about handing over Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel in Killiney outside Dublin to her two sons



BELFASTTELEGRAPH.CO.UK
It's a family thing: Third generation of Fitzpatricks conquer famous castle hotel

**Matthew Fitzpatrick**
Admin · Group expert · June 15 at 8:48 PM · 🌐

John Franklin Fitzpatrick brother of the boxer Hilton Fitzpatrick .
June 19, 1925 - June 15, 1944
<https://theishblockbuster.com/johnny-fitzpatrick/>



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**Pete Fitz**
May 25 at 9:21 PM · 🌐

Pete Fitzpatrick
Harris & Fitz at Radio-Memphis.



Mark E Caldwell is with **Pete Fitz** and 2 others.
May 23 · 🌐

Harris & Fitz recorded live in the Radio-Memphis studio, Wednesday May 22, 2024!
Check out and add their upcoming shows to your calendar.

**Rob FitzPatrick**
★ Rising contributor · 4 days ago · 🌐

Painting I made for the late Shane MacGowan!



**Paul Fitz Music**
January 7 · 🌐



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Drop in... say hello and where you're from!!!



Lee Mac Giolla Phádraig

January 7 · 🌐

Our family crest as a backdrop at my wedding 🇮🇪 🇫🇮 🇵🇪



Matthew Fitzpatrick

Admin Group expert +1 · January 3 · 🌐

"Remembering Joe Fitzpatrick, the last survivor of the Niemba ambush"

Thank you to [Brendan Flanagan](#) for sharing this article.

<https://www.independent.ie/.../rememberi.../a1876735876.html>



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