



FITZPATRICK
MAC GIOLLA PHÁDRÁIS
Ó MAOL PHÁDRÁIS



Fitzpatrick Clan Society CLAN QUARTERLY - MAY 2019

General News

The cut-off date for nominations for Fitzpatrick Clan Society Officers has passed. We now commence the process for the election of Officers, which will be the subject of a special email I will send out later in either May or June 2019.

I attended the Finte na hÉireann ([Clans of Ireland](#)) 2019 Cultural Summit and AGM in Dublin on 13 April. I'm not sure whether the reputation of Fitzpatricks was enhanced or not by this, but by the end of the Saturday night dinner only Dr Gerry O'Sullivan, Barte O'Connolly, Gerald O'Kelly and I were left. Well by then it was 5 am Sunday morning; so, as the Irish say, "It was just a quiet night".

Sadly, Matt Fitzpatrick representing O'Mulpatrick of Bréifne wasn't able to attend the Summit because he was recovering from minor surgery, otherwise I'm sure it would have been a band of five. We wish Matt a speedy recovery.

I've summarised what I consider were some of the Summit highlights later in this newsletter.

Website Updates

There have been a few nice additions to the [Fitzpatrick Clan Society website](#). Matt Fitzpatrick has put in many hours of work extracting very useful information from the 1901 Census of Ireland. As well as the surname distribution maps Matt has produced graphics for Fitzpatrick male first names. This is really useful because it helps us understand, for example, that when Fitzpatricks used the first name Cornelius it was almost exclusive to Co. Cork, whereas Bernard was common in Co. Cavan, etc. Due to Irish naming patterns the first name distributions can be back-extrapolated and be of real assistance for people trying to figure the origins of their Fitzpatrick ancestors.

On the subject of the distribution of the Fitzpatrick surname in Ireland, there are several useful sources prior to the 1901 Census that can be used as estimates as well as some very poor representatives, such as ESRI's 'Mapping Irish Surnames'. But the 1901 Census is the first to provide a near as is possible snapshot of Fitzpatrick numbers in Ireland, where they lived and where they were born. Again, see the table and map that Matt has produced.

Some more links pointing to Irish genealogy sources online are being added to the [links](#) page. Many thanks to [John Grenham](#) for providing these, and more about meeting John later.

DNA Test winners

DNA results are back for previous winners from November 2018, Kim Fitzpatrick and Denise Mahoney, who both upgraded to 37-markers; their results placed them in the FGC11134 and FGC5494 groups, respectively.

The December 2018 winner, Clint Fitzpatrick, has results from his 37-marker test back but as yet I've been unable to associate Clint with any other Fitzpatricks – this is the way it is sometimes, but with more people testing some should eventually find those elusive Fitzpatrick DNA matches.

January 2019 winner Monica Craig has upgraded her dad Dennis to FGC31830, and February 2018 winner Tessy Somers had her dad Mark tested for Z39589, which returned a positive result. The increase in Z39589 members on the DNA project is exciting and one I will continue to update you on because at this stage we have little knowledge on where they fit geographically or temporally with respect to other Fitzpatricks.

Clans of Ireland Cultural Summit and AGM 2019

The first ever appearance of a representative of the Fitzpatrick Clan at an annual Clans of Ireland Summit was very warmly met. The Summit itself was low-key with respect to both formality and ceremony. It was attended by a mix of people from all social spheres — all united by their passion for Irish culture and heritage.

Dr Joe Mannion (Clans of Ireland Cathaoirleach, or Chairperson) began by welcoming everyone. However, formalities and general business aside, the gathering proper commenced for me with the 'Parade of the Clans', an element reflecting bygone, and not so common, assemblies of Irish Chiefs. Most clans, the Fitzpatrick Clan Society included, were represented by elected or *de facto* clan members, however descendants of Clan Chieftains of old were also present.

For those who have studied Irish history it will be significant that Conor O'Brien, 18th Baron Inchiquin, the O'Brien of Thomond, and direct descendant of Brian Boru – simply known as 'The O'Brien', was present. Conor played a significant role in the Summit proceedings.

The O'Brien spoke of the relevance and importance of the Clans of Ireland and the Parade of the Clans, while reflecting on the demise of the Standing Council of Irish Chiefs and Chieftains. The Parade itself was simple enough affair; the Clans of Ireland secretary called the clan name (in Gaeilge) and the clan representative replied "Anseo", which means 'Here', before walking toward, and appearing before The O'Brien and Dr Joe Mannion, who wielded 'An claidheamh mòr' (the Clans of Ireland ceremonial claymore). From a personal perspective, the recognition of a representative of the Fitzpatrick Clan before fellow Irish Clan peers was like stepping back in time, and also a reminder this was a modern first and the start of a new era for Fitzpatricks.

Once the brief ceremony was complete the Clans of Ireland Order of Merit (CIOM) awards for 2019 were given to Irish historian Dr Katharine Simms and mathematician Dr Diarmuid Ó Mathúna. The Clans of Ireland Order of Merit is the highest honour that can be bestowed by Irish clans and is conferred on individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Irish culture and heritage or who have brought conspicuous honour to their clan name.

The conferment of the COIMs was followed by the Presentation of the Chiefs' and Clans' Essay Competition prize and trophy; formerly awarded by the Standing Council of Irish Chiefs and Chieftains, the award is now granted annually by the Clans of Ireland. The 2018 winner Patrick McDonagh, a PhD student at Trinity College, spoke quite brilliantly on 'Muirchu and the History of fifth-century Ulster', which counterpoised events from St Patrick's Life, against other and probably identical events gathered from several chronicles.

Next up, Dr Vincent O'Carroll launched the 'Friends of Clans of Ireland', which is a fund-raising initiative and Dan McGrath reported on the 'Historical Sites Project', which is a project that aims to map more sites that are relevant to Irish clans. The Summit was wrapped up by two lectures: 'Analysing and understanding Y-DNA results and Y-DNA projects' by Dr Paddy Waldron and 'The Annals of the Four Masters as a source for Irish clan history' by Dr Bernadette Cunningham. The former was everything you could ever want in a DNA presentation and included a nice example of how DNA can be used to define Irish clan lines, in this case the line of The O'Brien. The latter was a really excellent examination of how to extract details from the Annals that are not obvious to the untrained eye.

Dr Joe Mannion wrapped up proceedings and then it was a matter of getting on some smart clothes (!) and appearing for dinner.

And on the subject of smart clothes, during the Summit I very much enjoyed the company of Proinsias Mag Fhionnghaile (Francis Mac Ginley), CIOM. Proinsias is an expert on traditional [Irish attire](#) and, like several I spoke to throughout the Summit, expressed his concern that Irish clans were being undermined by non-Irish practices, such as men wearing kilts. Proinsias has kindly agreed to write a piece for the website that will probably be entitled, 'Irishmen in Kilts?!' Needless to say, Fitzpatrick tartans and kilts that you might come across hawked online are a modern invention; unauthentic and typically the subject of scorn amongst the general population of the Irish in Ireland.

National Library of Ireland: Seminar by John Grenham

While in Dublin I attended a seminar by Irish genealogist John Grenham entitled, 'Are we there yet?', which related to the availability of Irish records online. Many of you will be aware of John's book, *Tracing your Irish Ancestors*, which is now up to its 5th Edition. John didn't use the seminar to cover the book's contents, he mostly discussed various quirks of the databases and sources that are available online. And the answer to the seminar title's question was, "No, and probably not for a while".

DNA News

FTDNA's recent roll-out of the BigY-700, an upgrade to the BigY-500, has been very well received by the genetic genealogy community. FTDNA has long been ahead of its competitors on price, the sheer size of its Y-DNA database and its website applications, which include the recently added [BigY Block Tree](#).

FTDNA has now essentially caught up on what other providers offer in terms of test depth and coverage and, to date, 28 DNA project members have signed up for the BigY-700. The results for seven members have been returned, mostly in the FGC5494 group; see below.

NGS testing does not come cheap. In addition to the funds contributed by the Fitzpatrick Clan Society I would like to thank our major donors Tim Fitzpatrick and Joe FitzGerald whose generosity is affording never before seen insights into Fitzpatrick origins.

By far the biggest focus on the DNA project recently has been FGC5494. We have welcomed Silvano Ballestrin and Frank Jon to the DNA project, both of whom have DNA matches with FGC5494...A1488 Fitzpatricks around the time of surname adoption (*ca.* 1000 AD). Both trace to continental Europe, not Ireland, and Silvano is particularly interesting because he traces to North-East Italy and, prior to that, Switzerland. Silvano's BigY-700 results aren't too far away and analysis of these will provide further insight into the origins of FGC5494 (i.e., Ossory) Fitzpatricks around the time of the Norman invasion of Ireland.

In addition, John Dalton has joined the DNA project and much needed insights into Dalton DNA are now possible. It's still too early to be able to report on the detail of the findings but I can say that the FGC5494...A1496 FitzGerald, Fitzpatrick, Costigan and Dalton lines are distinct from *ca.* 1300-1500 AD.

I stated in the previous newsletter (February 2019) that I would present alternative theories others have on the origins of FGC5494 Fitzpatricks, but I haven't received any material to facilitate this counter-narrative yet. Hopefully it can be included in the next newsletter in August 2019.

Overall the [DNA project](#) is in good heart, with the current membership numbering 430.

Social Media

If you haven't checked out the Fitzpatrick Clan Society on [Facebook](#) it's worth the effort. For Twitter users, the Fitzpatrick Clan Society does have a [Twitter home](#), which I use for announcements rather than everyday commentary.

Upcoming Events

By the time the August 2019 newsletter comes around I hope to be able to provide details on planned Fitzpatrick Clan Society Regional gatherings in 2020.

Sláinte is táinte

Mike Fitzpatrick PhD
Fitzpatrick Clan Society – Acting Secretary