Pátraic surnames in the Fiants and Patent Rolls of Ireland, Part II: The Mac Fynen of Upper Ossory

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Abstract

The Fiants and the Patent Rolls of Ireland are an extraordinary and largely untapped source of information. Part I of this series, which interrogates Pátraic-surnames in the fiants and patents, answered questions about the Mac Caisín of Osraí (Ossory), who were unquestionably the close associates of the Fitzpatrick barons of Upper Ossory. Traditionally considered a hereditary medical family, the Mac Caisín of Upper Ossory sprang from a hereditary clerical family or, more broadly, a hereditary learned family, whose origins were in the diocese of Cill Dalua (Killaloe). It is not implausible that the Mac Caisín were patrilineally connected with the Mac Giolla Phádraig Osraí but there is no evidence of such can be provided by either conventual genealogy or Y-DNA analysis.

In Part II, the spotlight falls on the Mac Fynen of Upper Ossory, and the approach follows that of Part I, i.e., securing a temporal frame of reference via which associations, familial and otherwise, can be understood, which affords some ability to distinguish name occurrences in the fiants and patents as either surnames or patronymics. And via the fiants, patents, and other records of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it is possible to uncover, for the first time, that in many cases, Mac Fynen was, indeed, a surname that came to be used by those who had patrilineal origins with the Mac Giolla Phádraig of Ossory. The discovery of a second surname, not instantly recognisable as related to Mac Fynen but sharing the exact same patrilineal origins, further confirms the value the Fiants and Patents of Ireland have as source material for Pátraic surname research.

Names, styles, edits, historical records, DNA

This article is written in the English language, but the people and places discussed are Irish. To acknowledge the primacy of Gaeilge (Gaelic) and to allow readers to be able to find locations on modern maps, place names are provided in modern Gaeilge using the most common spelling; for example, Úi Fhairchealláin (Offerlane), unless the place name is titular, for instance, the Baron of Upper Ossory.

The rendition of personal names and by-names of people referenced in this article requires consistency because there can be variability in historical records even for the same individual, with mixtures of Gaeilge and English forms being used and sometimes with spellings imaginatively conjured up via phonetics. The approach here is to use the most obvious and correctly spelt form of the personal name, be it Gaeilge or an English form. Surnames are much less problematic, and preference is for a standard spelling, e.g., as determined and published by authorities such as Mac Lysaght (1985).
Quotations are italicised, and long or textually significant quotations are also indented. This article is a living work, i.e., it can, and most likely will, be edited by the authors who will retain all versions. Every effort has been made to consult all available records related to the period relevant to this article.

Introduction

This article continues a series that explores Pátraic-related surnames and their occurrence in the Fiants and Patent Rolls of Ireland, for which the extant records are from 1521-1603, and 1514-1575 and 1603-1633, respectively, i.e., much of the reign of Henry VIII of England to the eighth year of Charles I of England. Part I introduced the series by way of example with the surname Mac Caisín (Fitzpatrick, 2021), which demonstrated a method for approaching the interrogation of ‘surname groups’ in the fiants and patents, that being by first securing temporal frame of reference via which associations, familial and otherwise, can be understood. Such a systematic approach is crucial because the mega-data of names, places, occupations, relationships, and more, in the fiants and patents can overwhelm; and yet that data was once almost entirely lost.

The publication of many of the fiants and patent rolls of Ireland, which are still a largely untapped source of information for researchers of Fitzpatrick histories, followed an 1815 Irish Record Commission report of inventories from the various records offices and the condition of the records kept therein. The first volume of Patent Rolls from Henry II to Henry VII soon followed; however, in 1830, the Commission was suspended (Morrin, 1861). However, James Morrin, a clerk of enrolments at the Chancery, had the foresight to move various records to his place of employ at Four Courts and begin their transcription; these included the fiants, which he generally considered of somewhat lesser importance because they only served as the legal documents to direct Letters Patent to be passed.

Morrin noted the fiants were ‘preserved in large bundles’ and were largely unindexed but, prophetically, were of value ‘considering that if accident happen to any of the patent rolls, they can be replaced, in a great measure, by the fiants’ (Morrin, 1861, p.xxxiv). The fiants, being records of Letters Patent, are so known from the initial words from the original legal documents – ‘Fiant literæ patentes’ (HMSO, 1875), which means ‘let the letters patent be’ – and are now considered of great value because they are the primary record with authority of grants, leases, and pardons, etc., issued under the Great Seal of Ireland. And the fiants may also be considered superior to the actual Letters Patent because although fiants ‘were all supposed to be enrolled ... numerous instances occur where the patent’ is not found (Morrin, 1861, p.xxxiii). Hence, the fiants provide more information than found on the patent rolls.

‘Part II’ explores the surname or patronyms of the general form Mac Fynen when it is associated with Pátraic related surnames, viz., Mac Giolla Phádraig or Fitzpatrick, in the patents and fiants. Any doubt that Fynen-like identifiers in the patents and fiants were surnames can be readily dismissed due to a remarkable funeral entry from 1639, which provides such confidence of a surname use that it becomes the appropriate starting point for this discussion.
The pedigree of Donogh mac Teige Fynen

The Funeral Entries are another largely untapped source for Fitzpatrick researchers, and they are part of the Genealogical Office (formerly the Office of the Ulster King of Arms) Manuscript Collection at the National Library of Ireland, Dublin. Funeral Entries were, as decreed by an Act of State, to be kept by the Ulster King of Arms ‘for the better preservation of the memory of the nobility and gentry their marriages, posterity, and arms’ (Barry, 1971); the status of Fitzpatricks appearing in the Funeral Entries need to be understood in this context.

A funeral entry from 1639 (refer Figure 1) provides the pedigree of Donogh mac Teige Fynen, as recorded by Thomas Preston, Ulster King of Arms 1633-1655. Several aspects of the entry intrigue, most notably that Donogh mac Teige Fynen is referred to as ‘alias fitz Patrick of Manyn in the Queens County gent’, and that his descent was as the ‘third sonn borne of Teige Fynen alias fitz Patrick onely sonn of Laughlin which Laughlin was descended of Donogh fitz Patrick which Donogh was second sonne of the Fitzpatricks Barons of Upper Ossory’ (Genealogical Office, 1652).

The pedigree of Donogh mac Teige finds no parallel or even a passing reference in the works of either of the notable Fitzpatrick historians Shearman (1879) or Carrigan (1905), but their works are now well understood to be deficient in terms of capturing all descendants of the Barons of Upper Ossory (Fitzpatrick & Fitzpatrick, 2020; Fitzpatrick, 2020a; Fitzpatrick, 2020b; Fitzpatrick, 2021a; Fitzpatrick & Fitzpatrick, 2021; Fitzpatrick et al., 2022; Fitzpatrick, 2022). From exactly which Baron of Upper Ossory came Donogh, the second son, requires consideration, but there are few options since the number of generations from Donogh mac Teige, who died about 7 February 1634, to a ‘baron’ is at least five, inclusive — and perhaps more since Laughlin is not called the son of Donogh, only his descendant.

That Donogh mac Teige fathered five sons and five daughters indicates his birth was surely before 1600. Even on a short twenty-five years per generation basis, there is no option but for his descent to come from Bryan Mac Giolla Phádraig, first Baron of Upper Ossory, or Bryan’s father, Séan — neither the second baron, Bryan Óg, who in any case fathered no sons, nor the third baron, Florence, or Finghin, were born until after ca. 1537 (Carrigan, 1905). An alternative descent for Donogh mac Teige could be from Séan, the father of the first baron, or even further back in that paternal line. Such a suggestion appears in conflict with the record of Donogh mac Teige descending from the ‘Fitzpatricks Barons of Upper Ossory’ but elsewhere, and with authority, the term ‘Barons of Upper Ossory’ is used interchangeably with the Mac Giolla Phádraig ‘Lords of Ossory’. For example, Mac Fhirbhisigh records the ‘genealogy of the Mac Giolla Phádraig Lords of Ossory’ from Finghin, who became the third Baron of Upper Ossory in 1581, back numerous generations even though the last ‘Lord of Ossory’ was his father, Bryan, who relinquished that title in 1541. And Mac Fhirbhisigh also records ‘The Lord Barons of Ossory’ from Bryan (seventh Baron of Upper Ossory) to Séan, the father of the first baron, yet that title was not created until thirty years after Séan’s death in 1511 (Mac Fhirbhisigh & Ó Muraíle, 2003; Fitzpatrick, 2022).
But parking, for a while, the question of Donogh mac Teige’s descent, it is profitable to examine his funeral entry for peripheral clues that help build a clearer picture of his line, not the least of indications being the name of his wife and his place of abode.

**Figure 1: The Funeral entry of Donogh mac Teige Fynen (aka Fitzpatrick)**

Image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland
The Mac Costigan of Baile Mhaí

The funeral entry of Donogh mac Teige Fynen records he was ‘of Manyn’ and that his wife was ‘Margarett the daughter of Donogh Costigan of Ballywoy’. ‘Ballywoy’ is Baile Mhaí, now better known as Rush Hall, in the parish of Úi Fhairchealláin (Offerlane) in the barony of Choill Uachtarach (Upperwoods), and Costigans are first recorded in Baile Mhaí in Fiant 897, of 1566 (HMSO, 1879), viz., Donogh Mac William and Donyl gromy (i.e., gruamdha, meaning ‘grim’) Mac William. It is notable that in Fiant 897 both Donogh and Donyl gromy are attached to their patronymic, as the former also is in Fiant 3928 of 1582 (HMSO, 1881). In several other later fiants and patents they are recorded with the surname Mac Costigan (Morrin, 1863; HMSO, 1883; HMSO, 1884; HMSO, 1885, Patents); they were among the sons of William Mac Costigan, and it is probable this William Mac Costigan is the same who finds mention in several fiants and patents of 1552 and 1553. At this time he was associated with various Mac Giolla Phádraig and Ó Mordha (Morrin, 1863; HMSO, 1876).

Carrigan (1905) provides a sound narrative of the Mac Costigans of ‘Rushall’, who by the time Donogh mac Teige Fynen had married Margaret Ny Costigan occupied not only Baile Mhaí, but also Doire na Saortha (Derrynaseera) (HMSO, 1885), less than one mile to the north. And to the immediate west of Baile Mhaí is Manainn (Mannin), the home of Donogh mac Teige Fynen. Hence, the sphere of associations between the Mac Costigan and the Fynen can be understood, and further context is added with the knowledge that Fiant 897 (HMSO, 1879) is headed by a pardon to Bryan Fitzpatrick, the first baron, and his sons. In addition to the ‘Mac William’ Costigans being among the baron’s closest followers, there is also Teige Mac Fynen of Mion Droichid (Mondrehid), which is less than two miles northwest of Baile Mhaí; this raising the possibility that those using the surname Fynen may also have gone by Mac Fynen.

Similar connections can be made later in the late sixteenth and the early seventeenth centuries. For example, the 1582 will of Bryan, second Baron of Upper Ossory, records that Doire na Saortha was bequeathed to his wife, Joan Eustace (Carrigan, 1905); that same year Joan Eustace, ‘alias Joan Upperossori’ heads a series of pardons that include Donogh Mac William (i.e., Mac Costigan) of Baile Mhaí (HMSO, 1881). And Fiant 6551, from 1601, which is headed by a pardon to Florence Fitzpatrick, the third baron, also records several Mac Costigan and Margaret ny Fynen of Baile Mhaí (HMSO, 1885). Hence, it is with certainty the early Barons of Upper Ossory, various Mac Costigan, and some of those who went by the surname Fynen or Mac Fynen, were closely interrelated from at least 1566; the territories the Mac Costigan and Fynen occupied in southern Úi Fhairchealláin (Offerlane) were in the possession of the early Barons of Upper Ossory.

The Fynen of Manainn

That Donogh mac Teige Fynen was of Manainn provides a sure way to trace his descendants and follow his surname. The funeral entry names Donogh mac Teige’s first son as Patrick, who had died by 1639; his wife was Grissell, a daughter of Patrick Lany of Liagán (Legaun), and they had sons and daughters. The second son was Laughlin, who died unmarried and without issue, and the third son was Teige, who by 1639 was ‘beyond seas’. The fourth son was Donogh Óg, presumably because Patrick’s sons were minors, states he is his father’s
heir. Donogh Óg married Elizabeth, a daughter of William Ruadh O'Phelan of Cill Bhríde (Kilbreedy), who finds mention in Fiant 5555 of 1591 among followers of Barnaby, a son of Florence the third Baron of Upper Ossory (HMSO, 1884). It was via Donogh Óg that his father’s funeral entry came to be recorded. And the fifth son, Anthony, married Joan, a daughter of William mac Shane Fitzpatrick of Roisín (Rushin), who, based on his location, was probably a previously unidentified son of Bryan mac Shane Fitzpatrick (Down Survey, 1641), i.e., a grandson of the first baron.

But it is with Donogh Óg that there comes another unexpected surname variation, and it is only thorough an understanding of the possession of Manainn that the surname could ever be connected to Fitzpatrick. In 1641 the proprietor of the 311 acres of Manainn, Rathloran (i.e., the Rath of Lóthrán), and Cloquin was recorded as Donogh Óg Mac Kynen. A healthy scepticism would be quite correct in suggesting that the appearance of Donogh Óg Mac Kynen is simply a remarkably timed coincidence, yet other factors persuade otherwise. The funeral entry of Donogh mac Teige Fynen states he was buried at Anatrim, i.e., Eanach Troim, which is in the parish of Uí Fhairchealláin (Offerlane), just one mile northeast of Manainn. Eanach Troim was a monastic site from ancient times. According to Carrigan (1905), among those at rest in the graveyard are ‘McCostigans and McKeenins’; Carrigan also recorded Keenan buried there (Carrigan MS), which is a modern form of Mac Kynen. The presence of Mac Kynen at at Eanach Troim not only provides another link between that surname and Fynen, but it also associates them with the Mac Costigan.

Although Carrigan (1905) counted the ‘McKeenins’ among the ‘old clans of Slieve Bloom’, there is nothing to support his statement; neither how the clan emerged nor how the surname may have been derived. However, Woulfe (1923) equates Mac Kynine, McKennyne, etc., with Mac Fhinnghean with, i.e., son of Finghin, noting it ‘a rare surname’ with anglicised forms that ‘cannot be easily distinguished’. The surname scholar Proinsias Mag Fhionnghaile explains that Mac Fhinnghean and Mac Kynine both mean the son of Finghin, a given name meaning fair birth; ‘the two different English forms represent how it looks [written] as against a more accurate phonetic form’ (pers.comm., 29 September 2022). With this in mind, re-visiting the Fiants for ‘Mac Kynen’ of Ossory is worthwhile and proves fruitful. This article uses Mac Fynen/Mac Kynen for consistency and to reflect the fiants.

The Mac Kynen of Uí Fhairchealláin

The Mac Kynen of Uí Fhairchealláin (Offerlane), also variously spelt Mac Keynyne, Mac Kynen, Mac Kynyne, Mac Kenan, Mac Kenane, etc., and later spelt (Mac) Kynin or (Mac) Keenan, do not appear in the Fiants until the mid-sixteenth century. Fiant 897 of 1566 records Melaghlin Mac Kynen in a list of pardons headed by Bryan Fitzpatrick, along with numerous followers of the first Baron, including the aforementioned Mac Fynen and Mac Costigan (HMSO, 1879). Melaghlin’s place of abode is given as Doire Chraith Rua (Derrycarrow), which is approximately six miles north of Manainn. In 1641 the proprietor of Doire Chraith Rua was John Kyneene (Down Survey, 1641), which signals there was more than a fleeting association with the townlands. It is worth considering that Melaghlin may be the same person as the Laughlin of the funeral entry because (a) he fits the timeframe since he was probably born in the first quarter of the sixteenth century, and (b) his given name is uncommon among Mac Giolla Phádraig.
Later fiant entries demonstrate that Mac Kynen and Mac Fynen were used interchangeably in the written form. And from 1566, it is possible to demonstrate the Mac Kynenes were a family of no minor status. There is a generation gap before the Mac Kynen are recorded again in the fiants, twenty-five years later. Fiant 5608 of 1591 is headed by Florence Fitzpatrick, third Baron of Upper Ossory, and among his followers are Donogh (gallowglass), Teige Óg (kern) Shane (kern), and Moriartagh Mac Kynen, although no locations are provided; also noteworthy is the co-recording of William Mac Costigan and some of his descendants (HMSO, 1884).

Similarly, there are no locations recorded for the Mac Kynen in Fiant 6110 of 1597 (HMSO, 1885) – they are Dermot mac Laghlin, Donogh, Shane mac Shere, William, and Geoffrey ruadh (i.e., the red) Mac Kynen. Fiant 5608, a long list of pardons, is headed by Thady mac Fynen and Bryan mac Fynen, gentlemen. Still, in this case the use of mac Fynen is patronymic, the pair being two of the sons of Florence Fitzpatrick, the third Baron of Upper Ossory. Several Costigan are also recorded, notably using the patronymic mac William and Donogh Óg mac Donogh mac William stands out because his wife finds mention, which is uncommon in the Fiants but usually meant the woman had status; she was Margaret Fitzpatrick and is just one example of several examples of Costigan Fitzpatrick intermarriage in the sixteenth century.

But it is Fiant 6551 of 1601 (HMSO, 1885) that records Mac Kynen with the most extensive description of their places of abode – their Ossory proprietorships were extensive, although restricted to Úi Fhairchealláin. Fiant 6551 is again headed by Florence Fitzpatrick, and he has several Mac Kynen followers: Donogh Mac Kynen of Monnagh Bheag (Monnagh), Deirmid Mac Kynen, husbandman, and Geoffrey Mac Kynen of Ceapach an Arbha (Cappanarrow), shot; Geoffrey ruadh Mac Kynen of Doire na Saortha (Derrynaseera), along with William Mac Costigan, Donell Mac Costigan, a vicar – he was the rector of Domhnach Mór (Donaghmore) and Cill Dara Mai (Killermogh) (Leslie et al., 2013) – and, notably, Edmund Fitzpatrick, a son of the third baron; Sawe (i.e., Sadhbh) Ny Kynen of Mon Droichid (Mondrehid); Dermot ruadh Mac Kynen of Ros na Críne (Rossnacreena), shot; and, Shane Mac Kynen of Cuill na nGabhar (Coolnagour), horseman. Also notable in terms of surname relevance and locales are Margaret Ny Fynen of Baile Mhaí and Dermot mac Donell Mac Fynen of Doire na Manach (Dernamanagh), husbandman.

Fiant 6551 also records several mac Fynen, but these are not obviously Mac Fynen or Mac Kynen; the concurrent use of a patronymic with the same appearance as a surname makes unravelling some of the broader Fitzpatrick family of Upper Ossory associations impossible. Yet, where there are trans-generational locations in common, there is the ability to solve the genealogical complexities. Fiant 6733 (HMSO, 1886), which records a 1602 pardon granted to Teige Fitzpatrick, a son of the third baron, adds Dermot mac Laghlin, husbandman, and Donogh mac Laghlin Mac Kynen, shot, both of Ceapach an Arbha (Cappanarrow), as well as Shane mac Jeffery Mac Kynen, to the early seventeenth century Mac Kynen; these are very likely sons of Laughlin and one of the Geoffrey(s) from Fiant 6551 and are the last recorded of the sept in the fiants. A Patent of James (Clarke, 1967) from 1606 also records Dermot Mac Kynen of Ceapach an Arbha, now a freeholder, as well as Teige Mac Kynen of Ros na Críne (Rossnacreena), husbandman.
Figure 2:

Variously held Mac Fynen/Mac Kynen lands and abodes 1566 - 1659

Possession
Occupancy
Antrim
Offerlane Parish
Modern transport map

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Edited from Open Street Map. Tiles courtesy of Andy Allen. Website and API terms
By methodically stepping through the occupations of their Uí Fhairchealláin townlands (refer Figure 2), it becomes evident the Mac Kynen held their lands until they were lost via successive seventeenth-century disposessions, victims of the same fate suffered by various Fitzpatricks and Costigans. Carrigan (1905) attributed the early seventeenth-century losses of Teige Fitzpatrick, the fourth Baron of Upper Ossory, and his associates to the displeasure in which the Crown viewed Teige’s rebellions, as well as his several feuds with his younger brother, John. Teige was attained in 1615 and 1616, and he lost ‘parcel of his estate’ (Clarke, 1967), but there is no record of those losses pertaining to lands in Uí Fhairchealláin. However, in 1624 came a ‘grant from the crown to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham’ from James I to ‘the castle and lands of Borries’ (i.e., Borris-in-Ossory) that amounted to 10,788 acres. The new landowner’s tenants were required ‘to build their houses near the chief mansion, not scattered or detached’, and each tenant was required to take the oath of allegiance ‘and not to alienate to the mere Irish for any term beyond 30 years’ (Clarke, 1967). Some of the lands granted in Uí Fhairchealláin, notably a portion of Monnagh Bheag (Monnagh), Doire na Saortha (Derrynaseera), and Cúll na nGabhar (Coolnagour) (Down Survey, 1641; Clarke, 1967), had been with the Mac Kynen along with other ‘territory of Upper Ossory’ that had been with Fitzpatricks just three years prior. George Villiers was assassinated in 1628, and since his oldest son and heir, also George, was in his minority, his lands in Upper Ossory went to his wife, Katherine (Inquisitionum in officio rotulorum cancellariae Hiberniae (IORCH), 1826).

**Mac Kynen possessions ca. 1641 and afterwards**

The implications of the Irish rebellion of 1641 on Bryan, the sixth Baron of Upper Ossory, his kin, and his associates are discussed at length by Carrigan (1905), the key conflict coming as a result of Bryan’s siege of Borris Castle, which was in the possession of the young Duke of Buckingham. The siege was broken by forces under the command of Captain George Greames and Sir Charles Coote, with significant losses to the Irish. Coote had been made ‘custos rotulorum’ (i.e., Keeper of the Rolls) of Queen’s County in 1634 and, at the outbreak of the rebellion, possessed lands valued at £4,000 per year (Stephen, 1887), which included holdings in Uí Fhairchealláin (Down Survey, 1641). Coote died in May 1642, shortly after the siege; his heir was his eldest son Sir Charles Coote, later the first Earl of Mountrath (Stephen, 1887).

Carrigan (1905) recounts how the Uí Fhairchealláin lands of the Mac Costigan were forfeited after the 1649 invasion of Ireland by Cromwell and came into the possession of Sir Charles Coote Jr. – in 1654, along with his brothers (Colonel Chidley, Colonel Richard, and Colonel Thomas Coote), he was also granted the estate of Florence Fitzpatrick under the remit of the ‘Compositions for Lands of Delinquent Protestants’ (O’Hart, 1884). Yet, a further record of the extent of lands granted to Sir Charles Coote Jr. is recorded in the ‘Abstracts of grants of lands and other hereditaments under the acts of settlement and explanation 1666 - 1684’ (Irish Record Commission, 1825), and this included lands of the Mac Kynen. Although there is no exact record of Mac Kynen in rebellion, their close relationship with the Mac Costigans and Fitzpatricks would have made their political position unacceptable and their land tenures unsustainable. Hence, it does not surprise that ‘John Kinnyne’ of Doire Chraith Rua (Derrycarrow) was among thirty-four sentenced in 1656 to be transplanted from Queen’s County; others who suffered the same sentence were Bryan Fitzpatrick, the sixth Baron of
Upper Ossory, and eleven other Fitzpatricks, and Florence Costigan of Baile Mhaí (Rush Hall) (O’Hart, 1884).

In 1641, the Down Survey records Donogh Óg Mac Kynen (aka Fynen, aka Fitzpatrick) held Manainn, as had his father Donogh mac Teige before him, in 1601 – Linea Antiqua (O’Ferrall, 1709) records the townland was held by his grandfather, Laughlin; the parcels he held in Rathloran and Cloquin were part of the townland that later became Manainn. The Down Survey (1641) also records that Patrick Mac Kynen held Ceapach an Arbha (Cappanarrow), which had been with the Mac Kynen since at least 1601 (HMSO, 1885). And John Mac Kynen held Ros na Críné (Rossnacreena) and Doire Chraith Rua (Derrycarrow); those townlands had been with the Mac Kynen since at least 1566 (HMSO, 1879). Yet by 1667, the loss of Mac Kynen lands was complete. Most of the aforementioned lands were granted to Sir Charles Coote in 1666, and Donogh Óg Mac Kynen’s portions of Monnagh Bheag (Monnagh), which included lands now known as Ros na Clunana (Rossnaclonagh), that he held jointly with the Duke of Buckingham, which had been with the Mac Kynen since at least 1601 (HMSO, 1885), went to Bartholomew Connor in 1667 (Irish Record Commission, 1825). The Connor held Úi Fhairchealláin lands prior to 1641, and yet some were retrenched (Historical Manuscripts Commission, 1885); it is likely Bartholomew was kin with the Bryan Connor, heir to Patrick Connor, who was killed at the siege of Borris – Bartholomew, it seems, later had some of the Connor lands restored.

Backtracking a little, in the period between holding lands in 1641 and having lost possession in 1667, is the 1659 ‘Census’. Noted there is ‘Thady Kynin’, gent Ceapach an Arbha (Cappanarrow); the record has seventy-two Irish and three English in the townland and an additional eleven families of that surname in Barony of Maryborough, which had come to envelop many parishes of Úi Fhairchealláin. Also recorded were seven Fyinn, ten Costigan, and twelve Fitzpatrick. Also notable from the 1659 ‘Census’ in the Barony of Upper Ossory, which also covered many parishes of Úi Fhairchealláin, were eleven ‘Kynin’, twelve Costigan and fourteen Fitzpatrick (Pender, 1939). Hence, despite losing their lands by 1667, at the time of the 1659 ‘Census’ the (Mac) Kynen and (Mac) Fyynen, along with their Costigan and Fitzpatrick kin, were numerous in Úi Fhairchealláin. It is expected that the Mac Kynen would not have simply disappeared and would surely be found represented in Úi Fhairchealláin in later records, such as Parish Records, Griffith’s Valuation, and the 1901 Census of Ireland. And so it seems. Numerous entries from those records are present for the surname, which became most often written ‘Keenan’; those name bearers likely unaware that some of them were, in previous times, Mac Giolla Phádraig.

It is likely that surname complexities among ‘Keenans’ can only be unravelling by Y-DNA analysis. Mag Fhionnghaile states:

> Today, most McKinnens and Keenans are of different origins. Most McKinnens are really Scottish Gaelic McKinnons … [and] outside of Ossory you have the following: Ó Cuinneáin (O)Kinnane/Kennane of Tipperary, Limerick and north Clare, Mac Fhínnghín (Mc)Keenan of Galway and south Roscommon, and Ó Coinneacháin (O)Keenan, a variant of (O)Kinahan of Laois, Offaly and Westmeath (pers. comm., 9 October 2022).
Timelines and Pedigrees

Returning to the descent of Donogh mac Teige Fynen (aka Fitzpatrick) of Manainn who died in 1639, the Fiants provide the evidence that he was alive in 1601 and, since he possessed Monnagh Bheag (Monnagh), he was born ca. 1580, or earlier. Donogh mac Teige’s grandfather, Melaghlin (Laughlin) was alive in 1566 and was in possession of Doire Chraith Rua (Derrycarrow); counting a minimum of twenty-five years per generation, Melaghlin’s birth must have been ca. 1530 or earlier. Hence, Melaghlin’s father, Donogh, referred to as the second son of the Fitzpatrick barons of Upper Ossory, was possibly an unrecognised illegitimate son of Bryan Mac Giolla Phádraig, later the First Baron. Alternatively, Donogh may have been Bryan’s little-known brother, who Linea Antiqua records as Donogh Dubhsuílech (i.e., the black-eyed) (O’Ferrall, 1709; Fitzpatrick, 2022).

It is possible to construct reasonable lineages of the Mac Fynen sept from the late fifteenth century to the mid-sixteenth century: their pedigree found in Linea Antiqua, which is based on the Funeral Entry, is reproduced here (refer Appendix). And what also becomes clear is that Bryan’s roots were probably in Úi Fhairchealláin (Offerlane). It has been mooted that Bryan’s father was Séan Mac Costigan, a cleric who later in life took the surname Mac Giolla Phádraig (Fitzpatrick, 2020b). From the early sixteenth century, the Mac Costigan were of Úi Fhairchealláin and, as it has been demonstrated, their lives were closely interwoven with the Mac Fynen and Mac Giolla Phádraig. Also, Bryan had had two illegitimate sons, born before his marriage to Margaret Butler, and those sons who lived in Úi Fhairchealláin (Carrigan, 1905). This provides further evidence that Bryan’s origins and formative years were in Úi Fhairchealláin, among the Mac Costigan.

Why the surname Fynen became preferred to Mac Giolla Phádraig is a point of conjecture. It was, perhaps, a response to the demands of Henry VIII when Bryan became the first Baron of Upper Ossory, that he and his kin forsake Mac Giolla Phádraig for Fitzpatrick (State Papers, 1541). Rather than take Fitzpatrick, perhaps some of Bryan’s kin reverted to a patronymic from a recent ancestor. And the association with the name Fynen is clearly apparent. The most authoritative pedigree of the Mac Giolla Phádraig of Osraí have the grandfather of Bryan and the father of Séan as Finghin Mac Giolla Phádraig (Mac Fhirbhisigh & Ó Muraile, 2003).

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Appendix: Pedigree of Donogh Fynen from Linea Antiqua (O’Ferrall, 1709)

Image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland