

Nuacht agus tuairimí

December
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 Declan Hillman
Winter solstice, Shí an Bhrú (Newgrange).

Executive

Joan Fitzpatrick McShane
Matthew Fitzpatrick
Dr Mike Fitzpatrick

Advisors

Proinsias Mag Fhionnghaile CIOM

Editorial Board

Mike Fitzpatrick PhD
731 South Titirangi Rd
Titirangi, Auckland 0604
New Zealand
+64 21 2754108
mike@fitzpatrickclan.org

Eithne Branigan
eithne@fitzpatrickclan.org

Dr Esther Fitzpatrick
e.fitzpatrick@auckland.ac.nz

Bernard Fitzpatrick
bernard@fitzpatrickclan.org

Matthew Fitzpatrick
matt@fitzpatrickclan.org

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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<https://www.fitzpatrickclan.org>

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About | News and Views

As we are at the eve of the festive season and as 2023 draws to a close, I really enjoy seeing the Facebook posts and photos of Clan members and friends from all over the world. Call me a traditionalist, but I enjoy being grounded with family and seasonal celebrations.

On Christmas day, Esther and I will have breakfast in Auckland with our daughter and family, and then we fly to Christchurch in the afternoon to spend a week with our sons. I count myself fortunate to have this; the day itself and being with my kids will be the greatest gift.

As I reflect on 2023 what comes to mind is that it was the first time since May 2019 that I have travelled overseas. It was great to catch up with Co. Down's own Joan Fitzpatrick McShane, and some of my other distant cousins in Co. Louth. And it was fabulous to finally see Matt Fitzpatrick in the flesh, us having known each other for several years. And in reverse, Angela Rodoni Fitzpatrick, another Co. Down cousin, visited from Australia.

It's was meeting Fitzpatrick friends and family that were the 2023 highlights for me. In what turned out to be a hectic past few months personally, I was pressed for time to get these greetings to you, so I've made this newsletter a bit of a photo montage. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words.

I hope you have a happy and safe holiday season. If you are catching up with Fitzpatrick kin at Christmas, why not post some photos on our Facebook page. If you are not so lucky, and feeling a bit lost or alone, reach out to us on Facebook or by email. We are a great friendly family of Fitzpatricks – many clans with one heart for each other.

See you in 2024!

Mike Fitzpatrick
Editor

THE JOURNAL

2023 | A year of growth

Our Journal article output in 2023 reached four, which was below my initial expectations but I'm not unhappy. Our journal continues to grow, and we now have a total of fifteen published articles, which re-affirms our position as the leading centre for Fitzpatrick research, and by some distance.

It was great to finally get our series on the O'Mulpatrick underway. Part I is a review of annalistic occurrences of the given-name Máelpátraic, which showed the name, unsurprisingly, was most often found in individuals connected with monastic sites associated with St Patrick. Around 75% of the name occurrences were in north of Ireland, most notably in Armagh. See, [Mulpatrick article](#).

The focus of Part II, coming in early 2024, will be aligning the annalistic accounts with occurrences of Mulpatrick (given name) and O'Mulpatrick (surname) in pedigrees, such as those of Mac Firbis.

Next, we published an article written by John Maury Branan jr., entitled 'A Similar Sounding Surname Sequel: Haplogroup R-FT70038'. John's article built on the work that Ian and I undertook on the lines of men with the surname Branan, or similar, who are closely related to Fitzpatricks of Ossory. The scope of John's article is impressive, as are his methods of analysing Y-DNA data in conjunction with autosomal DNA data. John's work has led to a much deeper and clearer understanding of several branches of US Branans, who descend from Kenyon Branan and Caron Brannon. See, [Branan article](#).

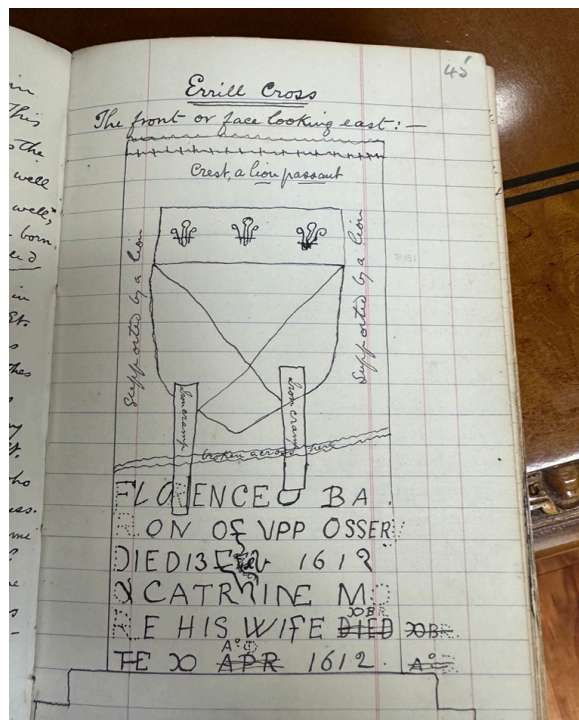
Our third article is the first in the Carrigan Manuscripts Supplement to the Journal. 'The Will of Thady Fitzpatrick MD, 1674' is a simple piece but it is considered important because it provides information on lines of Fitzpatricks of Co. Laois that have never been published. Moreover, the article corrects Thady's erroneous pedigree that was published by Shearman in his *Loca Patriciana*, and also provides researchers with the ability to connect Thady and modern-day Fitzpatricks. See, [Thady Fitzpatrick article](#).



The remains of Clare Castle in Suffolk, once a seat of the de Clare. The Branán of Kilkenny and Laois, who are closely related to Fitzpatricks, descend from the Norman family of de Braham of Suffolk who owe their appearance in Ireland to the de Clare.

And fourth, also in the Carrigan Supplement, is an article on the pedigree of Brian Mac Giolla Phádraig (ca. 1478-1575), First Baron of Upper Ossory. The article reviews Carrigan's research journey and why he went (in 1905) from believing the father of Brian was Brian 'na Luireach' (i.e., 'of the coats of mail') Mac Giolla Phádraig to (in 1922) correcting his position and stating Brian's father was Seaán (i.e., John) Mac Giolla Phádraig. See, [First Baron pedigree article](#).

In addition to the articles published in our journal, Esther and I published 'Decolonising an Irish surname by working the hyphen of gene-alogy' in the free-to-access journal *Genealogy*. While we could have published in our *Society Journal*, we felt the subject matter was too important not to publish in a higher profile journal. The article may be too much for some because we discuss aspects of Irish identity, decolonisation, and disruption of clan narratives that can cut deeply. But we are hopeful it will see wide readership, since there has been a lot of interest in the related article that we published in the same journal back in 2020. See, [Genealogy article I](#), and [Genealogy article II](#):



Carrigan Archives; a treasure trove for Fitzpatrick researchers.

CLANS OF IRELAND

Finte na hÉireann | 2023



The 2023 Clans of Ireland AGM and Cultural Summit was the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Two Fitzpatrick clans were represented in person: Fitzpatrick of Ossory by Marianne Mielke, and Fitzpatrick of Leinster by me.

The events kicked off with the unveiling of a plaque showing that Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, will be the permanent home of Clans of Ireland; there followed a tour of the Cathedral.

At the Summit we were treated to excellent presentations by Dr Simon Egan ('Kern, Galloglass and Caterans: Warfare in the Late Medieval Gaelic World'), Dr James O'Neill ('A miserly and beggars war - dispelling the myths of Tyrone's Rebellion'), and Melissa Shiels, winner of the 2022 Essay Competition. The presentation are viewable at the [Clans of Ireland YouTube channel](#).

I was privileged to address the Clans, while in a conversation with Michael Crowley on the topic of 'The Transformation of a Surname Association into Multiple Clan Organisations'. The address provides a summary of how we have come to understanding of our several clans and if you haven't yet see the recording you can, here: [Mike Fitzpatrick Clans of Ireland address](#).

Next page photos, clockwise:

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

The unveiling with Dean Rev Dermot Dunne, Gearóid O'Ceallaigh, Archbishop Michael Jackson, and Dr Patrick Wallace.

Mike Fitzpatrick, Gearóid O'Ceallaigh, and Marianne Mielke, Christ Church catacombs.

Floor tile mosaics, Christ Church.

Effigy of Strongbow, Christ Church.

Clan representatives.



A MAY MONTAGE

Clockwise: Esther at the Carrigan Archives; Luke McInerney at Quin Abbey, Co. Clare; a youthful William Carrigan; Leinster Fitzpatricks at the Co. Louth shindig; Monasterboice, Co.Louth; Eithne Branigan, Mike Fitzpatrick, and Matt Fitzpatrick at the Co. Louth shindig; Proinsias Mag Fhionnghaile at the Co. Louth shindig; Fitzpatrick's Foodstore, Co. Cork.



THANKS IAN

Lastly, a tribute to Ian Fitzpatrick, who for the past five years laboured like no other for the Fitzpatrick Clan Society and as an administrator on the Fitzpatrick DNA project. Ian's work was meticulous, be it his genealogy, DNA research, or writing for the Journal; it will stand the test of time.

Ian consumed thousands of hours of his life helping other Fitzpatricks, and he felt it was time to dedicate more of his retirement to his family and to...fishing. We miss him greatly but wish him all the very best.

