



FITZPATRICK
MAC GIOLLA PHÁDRAIG
Ó MAOL PHÁDRAIG



Fitzpatrick Clan Society Clan Quarterly - August 2019

General News

It's a little over one year since the formation of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society and I'm pleased to be able to announce the leadership team for the next three years. We were seeking five plus nominations that we could put to you for a vote, but in the end that wasn't required because only three nominations were received. Those nominated were Joan Fitzpatrick McShane, Matt Fitzpatrick and Mike Fitzpatrick.

The newly appointed executive felt it was important to bolster our expertise on matters of Irish history and culture and we are very pleased that Proinsias Mac Fhionnghaile (CIOM) has accepted an honorary position. In addition, Tim Fitzpatrick has accepted an honorary position as advisor on behalf of the Fitzpatricks of Ossory.

In the next month or so we will post short biographies of the executive and those with honorary positions on the website.

Website Updates

The home page of the [Fitzpatrick Clan Society website](#) is constantly undergoing small changes and updates. More substantial updates have recently been made to the Fitzpatricks of Ossory and Mac Giolla Phádraig Ulaid pages.

Gatherings in the Pipeline

We have started the planning for Clan gatherings in Australia and New Zealand (2020), Canada and USA (2021) and Ireland (2021 or 2022). It's early days, but we will provide firm dates, particularly for the Antipodean gatherings, as soon as practically possible.

DNA Test winners

Recent DNA test winners were Marie Lukawski (March), John Fitzpatrick (April), Rob Fitzpatrick (May) and Deb Woolley (June).

Marie's and Rob's prizes were upgraded to a Y-37 marker STR test and both winners donated their prizes to family members. John lives in Co. Kerry and it's really great to have another person from the south west on the DNA project. John was also upgraded to a Y-37 marker test. The SNP test on Deb's dad came back BY9002 -ve, which was pretty unexpected. More about what those means for our FGC11134...BY9002 group in the DNA news section.

DNA News

The [DNA project](#) continues to see good growth and it won't be long before the membership hits 500. This is due in no small part to the support of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society and individuals including Tim Fitzpatrick (Australia).

The big news from the DNA project this quarter comes from our FGC5494 group, which we are going to start referring to as A1488. We know these mutation names can be confusing, but just treat A1488 as if he was a man who lived several hundred years ago. A1488 was the common ancestor of many Fitzpatricks who, in recent times, trace their roots to Ossory, the ancient Irish region today captured largely by Counties Kilkenny and Laois. It would be nice to give an actual name to A1488 and, in fact, we will — we think he may have been called Geoffrey.

How is it possible to name an ancestor from hundreds of years ago when most of us well understand how difficult it is to push Irish genealogy back before 1800 AD? A rigorous analysis of data from 13 men who have the A1488 mutation has found they share common ancestry from *ca.* 1250 AD. Around that time annalistic records note Séafraid (Geoffrey) Mac Giolla Phádraig was 'King of Slieve Bloom'. Geoffrey sired at least three sons, Geoffrey, William and Oistegan and from the latter is derived the surname Costigan. Remarkably one of the A1488 men is a Costigan, corroborating historical records and pointing the finger firmly in the direction of Geoffrey senior as the progenitor of many Ossory Fitzpatricks living today.

Further evidence comes from a A1488 man who can show descent from Barnaby Fitzpatrick, the 1st Baron of Upper Ossory; although he possesses the A1488 mutation shared by others, his additional mutations indicates he is, so far, quite unique and that his shared ancestry with other A1488 Fitzpatricks, Costigans and FitzGerald's is at least two to four generations earlier than Barnaby.

The dating of the common ancestry of A1488 Fitzpatricks and, in fact, all Fitzpatricks who are Group 2 on the DNA Project, is also corroborated by Y-DNA comparisons of Short Tandem Repeats (STRs) using tools such as FTDNA's TiP (Time Predictor) calculator. If you're not sure you are in Group 2 just look at your results — if you have the distinctive combination of DYS390=21 and YCAII=22-23 (you will probably also be DYS459=9-9) then you will be in Group 2.

The discovery of the likely ancestor of Ossory Fitzpatricks is a great example of how DNA can confirm some of the histories recorded by Irish scholars and, also, shed some critical light on those histories. The appearance of Geoffrey in the pedigree of Barnaby Fitzpatrick is subject to some intrigue coming, as it did, after the end of the recorded line of the Kings of Ossory (*ca.* 1185 AD) and at a time of incredible political and social change in Ossory brought on by the Norman invasions of Ireland. It was at this time the Mac Giolla Phádraigs were driven from their clan lands in Kilkenny, resulting in what Carrigan refers to as a century and a-half 'land war' in Upper Ossory as the Mac Giolla Phádraigs sought a new home.

Shearman picks up the narrative of the emergence of a 'junior line' of Mac Giolla Phádraigs in Upper Ossory with Domhnall Mac Giolla Phádraig of 'the Plain of Leix', whose son, Geoffrey, sired Geoffrey, Oistegan and William. It appears very odd, even to those with limited familiarity with Irish naming conventions, that none of the sons of an Irish Chieftain bore the names of their father, their grandfather or, in fact, any of their ancestors. Even Shearman draws attention to the fact that Geoffrey's name looks out of place, but his explanation that Geoffrey (Seaffd, as it

appears in the Annals) is 'a name derived from their Danish intermarriages', fails utterly to convince because (a) there are no appearances of Seaffd or it's Norse form, Goffraid (i.e, Godfrey) in the Mac Giolla Phádraig pedigrees or pertaining to the Mac Giolla Phádraig in the Annals, and (b) although there were intermarriages between Mac Giolla Phádraig ancestors and Danes this was some 200 years or more earlier than the appearance of Geoffrey Mac Giolla Phádraig.

A deeper analysis of DNA data from Ossory Fitzpatricks indicates it is unlikely that Geoffrey was the descendant of Irish clansmen in the 10th Century, at the time the Mac Giolla Phádraig clan emerged. Rather, A1488 Fitzpatricks bear an earlier genetic signature from *ca.* 920 AD, and have a deeper genetic profile that is more consistent with a non-Irish, continental origin – perhaps Norman, or Viking, or from an isolated clan of Gaels. Hence, it could well be the appearance of Geoffrey, Oistegan (a form of Roger) and William, i.e., three names of clear Norman derivation, came about via the intermarriage of a Mac Giolla Phádraig daughter with a newly landed Norman.

The emphasis of the DNA project will shift for a while to the FGC11134...BY9002 sub-group. This group appears to have old Bréifne roots and an ancient association with a Phádraig patronym. We can deduce that because, other than SDSs (Surname or DNA Switches), there are no DNA connections with other surname groups prior to the advent of surnames, *ca.* 1000 AD. We consider it likely the BY9002 group are descendants of a Mac Giolla Phádraig confederation (more about this in the next newsletter), hence we are starting a campaign of NGS testing on BY9002 much as we did for A1488 and BY2849; please make contact if you'd like to be involved.

If you aren't BY2469, BY9002 or A1488 don't feel left out. We aim to conduct NGS testing on all our large and medium sized DNA groups over the next few years, but these things do take time and resources.

The Comedy Section: a note on kilts

From time to time we field enquires about 'Fitzpatrick tartan kilts'. In truth this is not something the Fitzpatrick Clan Society is particularly enthusiastic about since our roots are in Ireland, not Scotland. We understand how some may want to don plaid kilts and Tam O'Shanters all in the modern, North American devised 'Fitzpatrick Tartan'. Why there's even a 'Fitzpatrick Hunting Tartan' for those of you who want to get your gun and go on a haggis shoot. And why not throw in a sporran as well for good measure? Anyway, we promise not to laugh (too much) at the sight of you in a 'Fitzpatrick' kilt.

But on a serious note, in our next newsletter we hope to feature a section on true Irish attire, viz., the brat, by our own Proinsias Mac Fhionnghaile.

Sláinte is táinte

Mike Fitzpatrick PhD
Executive Officer — Fitzpatrick Clan Society