



FITZPATRICK MAC GIOLLA PHÁDRÁIS Ó MAOL PHÁDRÁIS



Fitzpatrick Clan Society
Clan Quarterly – February 2020

General News

As we head toward the second anniversary of the formation of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society our membership is almost at the 300 mark. The objects of the Society are to:

- Promote, foster and facilitate Clan spirit, diversity, friendship and networking amongst Clan members.
- Encourage and promote the study and preservation of the history, folklore, and traditions of Fitzpatricks.
- Encourage and promote the study of the genetic genealogy of Fitzpatricks.
- Provide support and resources to Clan members seeking to understand their Fitzpatrick roots and connections.
- Provide opportunities for Clan members to participate in international and regional gatherings where Clan members could reasonably benefit from such participation.

Having such a strong and growing membership gives us the opportunity to further reach out to the worldwide community of Fitzpatricks – there are approximately 100,000 of us. So please feel free to invite any Fitzpatricks you know to join us.

And I want to say a big thanks Matt Fitzpatrick because the membership of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society on [Facebook](#) is now more than 500. I for one really enjoy Matt's daily posts be they about famous Fitzpatricks, Fitzpatrick Bars and Restaurants, or just general Fitzpatrick news. If there are any items that you'd like to share, but you don't do Facebook, please consider sending them to [Matt](#).

Gatherings 2020

Regarding the gathering for Fitzpatricks on Saturday 3rd October 2020 on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia, I've recently met with Tim Fitzpatrick, who lives on the Sunshine Coast, who is helping coordinate events and activities – the planning is well and truly advanced. We hope to upload a registration form to the website and announce the programme in April.

And, thanks to Eithne Brannigan, over Easter there is also an opportunity for all with Grangebellew, Co. Louth Fitzpatrick and related lineages to meet, learn about their ancestry and get to know one another. Ciaran Branigan, who did the original research into the family will be there to answer family questions and meet his long lost relations. I will be visiting from New Zealand at that time and will provide an update of the y-DNA Project, with a particular focus on Co. Louth Fitzpatricks. The get together is in Drogheda and if you'd like more information contact [Eithne](#).

DNA Project News

I've recently had reason to review the Fitzpatrick y-DNA project as a whole and here are some interesting facts:

- The project has 195 members (January 2020) with Fitzpatrick or related surnames who have taken at least a 37-STR marker test;
- There are a quite remarkable 54 distinct STR-haplogroups;
- Three haplogroups (28% of members) show evidence of shared ancestry with other Fitzpatricks from ca. 850-950 AD, i.e., at the dawn of the age of surnames (Ó Murchadha, 1999) in Ireland;
- 13 haplogroups (7% of members) have no shared ancestry with any surname group from ca. 850 AD;
- 12 haplogroups (46% of members) from ca. 1300-1600 AD;
- 12 haplogroups (12% of members) from ca. 1600-1900 AD; and,
- 14 haplogroups (7% of members) are strongly associated with another surname.

If you are like me, and someone had told you 20 years ago that there were more than 50 different Fitzpatrick haplogroups, it would have come as a big surprise; the haplogroups I'm talking about have no genetic connection via the male line in the past 2000 years. So, what are we learning about these 50-plus ways you can be a Fitzpatrick?

As expected for a surname that arose in Ireland (Note 1) the majority of Fitzpatrick haplotypes are associated with those classified as Gaelic or Norse. The most common are R-M269 and I haplotypes (185 members). Also represented are haplotypes D-PH43, E-M2, J-M172 and Q-M252, associated with East Asian, Sub-Saharan African, Caucasus/Levantine and Indigenous American origins, respectively.

For many in a small number of the large haplogroups, who identify with Bréifne or Leinster, a patrilineal descent from an ancient Pátraic ancestor (e.g., a Mac Giolla Phádraig or Ó Maol Phádraig appears feasible. Also, for 13 single-member haplogroups a patrilineal descent from an ancient Pátraic ancestor cannot be discounted since they have no post-surname connections whatsoever.

There are large numbers of Fitzpatricks among four haplogroups, identified alongside Ossory, Munster and Bréifne, who show patrilineal descent from a Pátraic surname during the Late Middle Ages (ca. 1250-1500 AD). The patrilineal origin of Ossory Fitzpatricks has been discussed a great deal in these newsletters and the DNA project continues to disrupt the historical narratives of the Ossorians; more data in the ensuing months should bring further clarity of understanding. The origins of the large group of Munster Fitzpatricks will only become clearer via a regime of NGS testing, which is scheduled for 2021. Until recent advances in y-DNA testing Bréifne Fitzpatricks have confounded scholars somewhat, but a simplistic blanket association, such as that suggested by Shearman (1879), with Ossory no longer fits. What has become clear is Bréifne has more diverse patrilineal associations with Pátraic surnames than any other kingdom of Ireland, so it becomes a matter of understanding the DNA data versus the various patterns of use of Pátraic surnames found in Irish records ca. 1300-1600 AD.

The same can be said about those Fitzpatrick haplogroups that have just 1-3 members, of which there are 34 on the DNA project. I used to think it would be virtually impossible to figure out how they came to be Fitzpatricks. But, with NGS data and a deep interrogation of Irish records, I think there is at least some hope these lines could be better understood and their narratives more fully recounted. Some of those in the 34 haplogroups are genetically matched to other surnames, and there are numerous well documented reasons why a y-DNA profile might match a different surname, e.g., adoption, new surname events, surname switches, a daughtering out (https://isogg.org/wiki/Non-paternity_event). There is evidence that some haplogroups among these 'other surname' groups may have acquired a Pátraic surname via descent from historical figures in Clans such as Maguire, O'Reilly or McDonnell/McDonald who bore the personal name Gilpatrick (Patent Roll James 1, 1603-1625); their sons may conceivably have taken the name Mac Gilpatrick.

There's very much more to say on the DNA study, but not enough time or space right now. Next quarter I'll be reporting on Ian Fitzpatrick's findings in the FGC11134...BY12234 group; Ian has been very busy making the most of the Canadian winter.

I'll also have some comments on how y-DNA can help push beyond the oft frustrating 'paper wall' (ca. 1750-1800 AD) of Irish genetic genealogy with a great example that's afforded an understanding of the origins of our large group of Co.Louth Fitzpatricks, right back to the early 1600s when they were still called Mac Giolla Phádraigs.

History Section

Lastly, here's a curve ball for your consideration. Take a deep breath, sit down and, if it's after 12 noon, you might like to grab a whiskey because it's time for a bit of myth busting; and thanks to Matt Fitzpatrick for his contributions to this section.

The origins in Ireland of the surname Fitzpatrick go back to 1541. Under the terms of surrender and regrant (Maginn, 2007) Brian Mac Giolla Phádraig (MacGilpatrick) became the first Irish chief to abandon his native title (McNamara, 2011). To provide an insight into what a surname meant to a person's identity, the act required:

"the said Mac Gilpatricke doth utterly forsake and refuse the name of Mac Gilpatricke...and promyseth to name him selfe, for ever hereafter, by suche name as it shall please the Kinges Majestie to gyve unto him." (State Papers of Henry VIII, 1541).

The name given to Brian by Henry VIII (Carrigan, 1905, p.81) was Fitzpatrick, which is oft and authoritatively referred to as the only non-Norman Irish Fitz- (from the French *fil*, essentially meaning *son of*) surname (McLysaght, 1985). I now argue Fitzpatrick is nothing of the sort, since the transliteration of Mac Giolla Phádraig is Mac Gilpatrick and any subsequent anglicisation/normalisation/Fitz-prefixation would render the name FitzGilpatrick.

There is nothing indigenous-Irish about Fitzpatrick, it was an entirely new surname in Ireland and, being the combination of Fitz- with Patrick, it could only ever originate from the surname Mac Patrick. Further, there is a Norman double-whammy because, along with Fitz-, the surname Patrick is not indigenous-Irish either, having arrived with the Normans (Woulfe, 1923); mere Irish considered Pádraic too sacred to use directly.

Thinking this would be pretty controversial for some, I ran my ideas past the Fitzpatrick Clan Society historical, advisor, [Proinsias Mag Fhionnghaile CIOM](#), who replied:

I must say that this is a wonderful short piece and one that I can only agree with. You are right to bring forward this point as Fitzpatrick should, as you state, be equated properly with Fitz Gilpatrick (a form which does not exist). I presume that the English deemed FitzGilpatrick to be too much of a mouthful! On the point of McLysaght, I wouldn't be too hard on him as he did not have the research available that we have today.

The Irish were well known for taking saints names and there are many, many examples. However, the names of Jesus/Íosa, Mary/Muire and Patrick/Pádraig were deemed too sacred to use directly, therefore the words Giolla or Maol were usually added as prefixes. That also explains why Giolla Phádraig was common as a personal name. However, that only applied to Ireland. In Gaelic Scotland, St Patrick had less of an effect and so Pádraig was used there as a personal name. The Scots Gaels, followed the Irish Gael line in respect of Jesus and Mary.

And on that learned note,

Sláinte is táinte

Mike Fitzpatrick PhD
Fitzpatrick Clan Society – Executive Officer

Notes & References

Note 1: There is evidence for the use of Fitzpatrick outside Ireland prior to it being given to Brian Fitzpatrick, e.g., William of Salisbury (d. 1196 AD), the 2nd Earl of Salisbury, was known as William FitzPatrick. See Cokayne, G. E., ed. (1896). Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom, extant, extinct, or dormant, Vol.7 (1st ed.), p.30. London, George Bell & Sons.

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