



# FITZPATRICK MAC GIOLLA PHÁDRÁIS Ó MAOL PHÁDRÁIS

Fitzpatrick Clan Society  
CLAN QUARTERLY - NOVEMBER 2019



## General News

I'm not sure if there's ever been a busier period in terms of DNA results and growth in numbers for the [DNA project](#) as we are currently seeing. More than ever people are wanting to understand their roots using the powerful combination of conventional genealogy and genetics. The Fitzpatrick Clan Society has the expertise and willingness to help you (at no cost) at any stage of that journey should you wish to embark on it.

A cautionary note, however; traditional notions of Fitzpatrick origins, based on historical narratives and mythologies, are being well and truly blown out the water by the findings of the DNA project. Hence, it's essential that any who decide to take a DNA test do so with their eyes wide open.

We have entered a new era in understanding the multi-varied genetic identities of Fitzpatricks and you can read the latest in the DNA section, but the Fitzpatrick Clan Society is very clear about its objects: we embrace all those with connections to the Fitzpatrick surname – there is no hierarchy and no member of any great sept within the clan is greater than any individual Fitzpatrick who has no sept and/or is genetically unconnected.

## Gatherings 2020 and beyond

We are very pleased to announce we will host a gathering for Fitzpatricks on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia with informal activities also planned for the evening of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and morning of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October. This is over the Queen's Birthday weekend in Queensland. We will upload a registration form to the website before the end of the year and a programme will be released around April 2020.

We are still in the planning stages for Fitzpatrick gatherings in New Zealand (2020 or 2021), Canada and USA (2020 or 2021) and UK and Ireland (2021 or 2022).

## DNA Test winners

Recent DNA test winners were Joe Fitzpatrick (July), Carrie Fitzpatrick (August), Mike McGovern (September) and Eamon Fitzpatrick (October). A point of clarification: the monthly prize is a single SNP test and we well understand that for some such a test is irrelevant. As such we will work with the prize winner to provide an alternative; our preference by far is to have a male with the surname Fitzpatrick undertake a y-DNA test.

## DNA Project News

The current growth in the Fitzpatrick [DNA project](#) is unprecedented. This remarkable project was the brainchild of Dr Colleen Fitzpatrick in 2000 and by the end of 2014 had grown to approximately 250 members. At that time, for one reason or another, the project was floundering, but it has since been revived due most largely to the efforts of three Fitzpatrick Clan Society members: Ian Fitzpatrick, Tim Fitzpatrick and Dr Mike Fitzpatrick. The Fitzpatrick DNA project is significant and progressing once again, and we expect to double the project membership from its late 2014 figure, up to 500, by early 2020.

Some of the growth has been due to the addition of people with other surnames, such as D'Alton and Robinson in the FGC5494 group, O'Kelly and Kenny in the FGC11134...BY9001 group, and Ireland in the Z255...Z16434 group. Such additions are essential if we are to understand the origins of those who came to take the surnames Mac Giolla Phádraig or Ó Maol Phádraig because by understanding who our genetic cousins, uncles etc. are we can learn much about who we are. And it's NGS (Next Generation Sequencing) that is able to make some sense of those sometimes-confusing y-STR surname matches and enable us to examine narratives and historical accounts via scientific, critical and factual lenses, rather than non-scientific, non-critical and fanciful ones.

Over the past few years the Fitzpatrick DNA Project has been focussed on several areas of research associated with some of the larger DNA sub-groups. Since the arrival of NGS the L21...Z255...Z16434...BY2849 group (Co.Down, Co. Kildare, Co.Louth) has been the flagship for Fitzpatrick genetic genealogy. A recent project focus has been the large L21...FGC5494...A1487 group (Ossory), which now has very good numbers of NGS testers. The project has now shifted focus to L21...FGC11134...BY9001 (Breifne), which although large in numbers is low in NGS data. Toward the end of 2020 the project will seek to advance NGS testing in the L21...FGC11134...CTS4466 group (Munster) and after that it will likely be the turn of the L21...L513 group (also Breifne).

But this...if you think you have a case for an NGS test why not email me to discuss? Also this...if you'd like to contribute financially, even in a small way, to the Fitzpatrick [DNA project](#) it's really easy, simply follow the link below, select 'F' from the dropdown and then search for Fitzpatrick:

### [Group Fund General Contribution](#)

Now, a summary of some recent NGS and other key NGS results. In L21...Z255...Z16434...BY2849 Casey Fitzpatrick returned as BY2893 which adds further weight to Kilcoo (Parish) being where this SNP originated, perhaps even pinpointing 'Fitzpatrick Close' in Fofannybane, Co. Down. Ian Fitzpatrick, who cannot find evidence to trace to his Irish homeland, came back BY52612 as expected, which places him in a group of Grangebellew/Clogherhead (Co.Louth) Fitzpatricks who share ancestry from the 1600s-1700s. Sheeptown, Co.Down's own Michael Fitzpatrick returned a 37-marker test that was simply remarkable because it clearly places him close to the aforementioned Co.Louth Fitzpatricks. If you stand at Clogherhead Point, Co.Louth, and look north up the coast you can see the entrance to Carlingford Lough and a Mourne's backdrop – well at least you can on a clear day. I mentioned this to the Fitzpatrick Clan Society cultural and historical advisor, [Proinsias Mac Fhionnghaile CIOM](#), who stated:

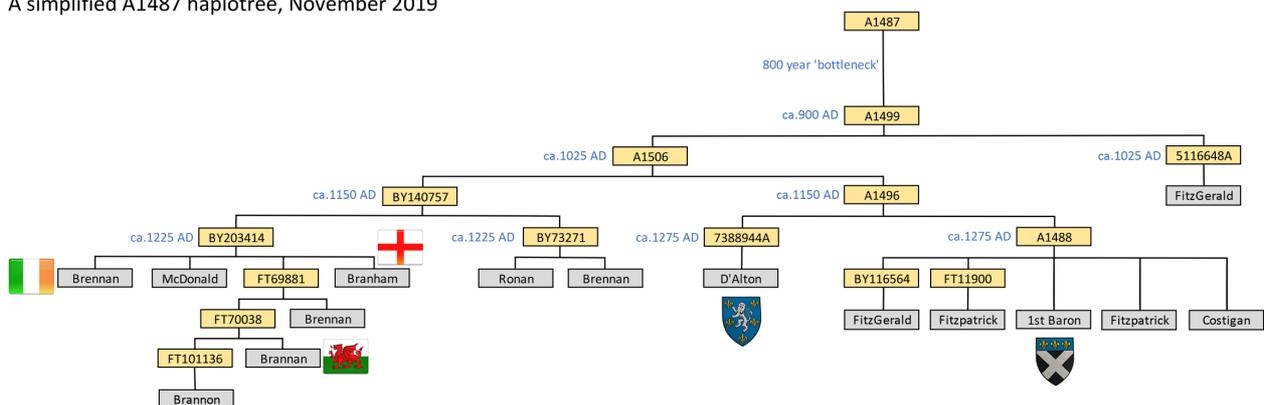
*'In medieval times, a trip by boat would have been the usual option between locations on or near Carlingford Lough. Travelling by boat was quicker and easier then. Movement of people were much more complex in those days, and, as you suggest, happened over a longer period. The reasoning for this is that people had longer social and cultural memories. Relationships, made by war or marriage, lasted many generations and were retold in stories 'by the fireside'. My own clan has had a strong bond with the Sweeneys since the early 14<sup>th</sup> century when the first Sweeney settled in north Donegal and married the daughter of the McGinley chieftain. This 'special relationship' lasted throughout the rest of the Gaelic period and indeed into the twentieth century in a reduced form. Even as late as the late 19<sup>th</sup> century we find a high level of inter-marriage between the two surnames. Therefore, if a Fitzpatrick settled in a particular area, for whatever reason, it would attract others of the name over many generations.'*

Great insights indeed!

Moving on to the FGC5494...A1487 group, there are now 29 members who have taken an NGS test, with the majority having a BigY-700. I've gone on record many times stating my theory that A1488 Fitzpatricks have an origin that is not ancient Irish but are most likely Norman in origin. I think even amateur genealogists understand many of those Hiberno- and/or Cambro-Norman Irish, such as the Geraldines, became assimilated into Irish Gaelic culture and became 'more Irish than the Irish themselves'. They became known as 'Old English' as opposed to being 'Mere Irish', mere in this context meaning 'Pure'. But the overriding point here is that if you are associated with the surname Fitzpatrick it doesn't matter to the Fitzpatrick Clan Society if you are 'Old English' or 'Mere Irish' or from the planet Jupiter; you are one of us.

The latest round of NGS results for the FGC5494...A1487 group largely speak for themselves. The following figure, which is a simplified y-DNA SNP haplotree (genetic tree) will serve to illustrate the current Fitzpatrick Clan Society thinking regarding the origins of Ossory Fitzpatricks.

A simplified A1487 haplotree, November 2019



**Note:**

- There is a long bottleneck between the A1487 block and A1499 and no Irish ancestors for A1499, whereas many would be expected if historic records are even remotely correct.
- The familial relationships ca. 1150-1275 AD are complex and 'congested', with several surname lines arising within the space of 4-5 generations.
- Ossory Fitzpatricks do not possess a surname-specific genetic mutation, rather it is shared with a Costigan and a line of FitzGerald.

- The surname FitzGerald also occurs further up the haplotree of Ossory Fitzpatricks, which is a 'smoking gun' pointing at the likely Norman origins of A1499.
- Ossory Fitzpatricks have a line of genetic close cousins who are D'Altons who trace to Kilkenny, as well as a line of genetic close cousins with Bran-type surnames who trace to England, Ireland and Wales.

For those who are interested I will soon post more on the website regarding the relationship between Ossory Fitzpatricks and their genetic cousins — the essence of which is it can be a real trap for the uninitiated who might be apt to make simple associations without critical consideration of what are complex genetic patterns and non-trivial surname derivations. For example, it is far too simplistic to assert the origins of those with Irish type Bran-surnames must have been with the O'Bráonain Princes of Idough. Bran-surnames are not uncommon in England, Ireland or Wales, and one Irish derivation is from the Gaelic Breathnach, which means Welshman.

Moving on, results in the L21...FGC11134...BY9001 (Breifne) group are starting to come in. Ian Fitzpatrick is running this project and I won't report on it until he has worked the data. One thing I can say though is that if you are in this group and you'd like to take the BigY test, please [contact Ian](#).

Finally, it's exciting to see the recent BigY results of one of our project members, which define an entirely new Fitzpatrick haplotype. We now have a Fitzpatrick who is L21...Z53...L226...DC40; I know the jargon can be overwhelming at times, but what that means is he is confirmed in the Dál gCais group (L226) and as such is considered as sharing ancestry with Brian Boru, King of Ireland (1002-1014). I met Brian Boru's direct descendant, Baron Inchiquin (Conor O'Brien, Chief of the name, Prince of Thomond) this April past at the Clans of Ireland Summit, and he's as nice a guy as you could meet and not a bad cousin to have!

### **A Big Announcement**

Since the formation of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society you have likely read in various places about our position with respect to the arms of the Barons of Ossory. To us these are a symbol of but one sept of the Fitzpatrick Clan; a fine sept, yes, and one with a rich and colourful history.

But, for several months we have been working on the creation of a Fitzpatrick Clan Society emblem that we, the Executive (Joan Fitzpatrick McShane, Matt Fitzpatrick and I), feel symbolises who we are. I can tell you this, it was no easy feat. I think sometimes Fitzpatricks find it difficult enough to agree with themselves let alone two others. And big thanks go to our Heraldic Artist Eddie Geoghegan, [The Heraldry Website](#).

So, with a drum roll I ask you to look at the next page....

Some explanation of the symbols and words that comprise the emblem are also provided.

Sláinte is táinte

Mike Fitzpatrick PhD  
Fitzpatrick Clan Society – Executive Officer

## THE EMBLEM OF THE FITZPATRICK CLAN SOCIETY

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Artwork by Eddie Geoghegan, [The Heraldry Website](#)



Our Clan Society names: Ó Maol Phádraig, Fitzpatrick, Mac Giolla Phádraig.

Our Clan Society motto: Cun Freastal, Cun Leanúint meaning, 'To Serve, To Follow',  
being derived from Maol and Giolla.

A shield depicting the cross of St Patrick, from whom we derive our name.

Above the shield, a crown. Fitzpatricks descend from the Kings and Queens of Ireland.

Two green dragons, depicting our Irish Chieftain roots, supporting the shield.