

## The Carrigan Manuscripts: the Fitzpatricks of Gorteen and Coolcashin

by Mike Fitzpatrick PhD [✉](#)

Independent Scholar, Auckland 0604, New Zealand

Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society 2024, S1, 32-38.

---

### Introduction

Among Carrigan's Manuscripts<sup>1</sup> are his notes on several Fitzpatrick families of Co. Laois and Co. Kilkenny, not obviously connected with the Barons of Upper Ossory, which include seventeenth to early twentieth nineteenth century facts, narratives and genealogies unavailable elsewhere.

Volume 73, is titled 'Extracts from Wills, Castlecomber etc' but this does not fully describe the contents, which provide much useful information on the Fitzpatricks of Gurteen<sup>2</sup> and Coolcashin<sup>3</sup>.

Volume 45 has the title 'Durrow and Aghaboe' but this also belies what lies within the black-backed book, which contains notes on the Fitzpatricks of Coolcashin and Ballyboodin<sup>4</sup>.

Full transcriptions from Volumes 73 and 45, which relate to Fitzpatricks of Gorteen and Coolcashin are presented here. The records provide a way to connect descendants of Gorteen and Coolcashin Fitzpatricks to lineages of the sixteenth century, and earlier.

### Volume 73: The Fitzpatricks

Mr John Fitzpatrick was born and lived in Gurteen (between Cullohill and Durrow), married Miss Fanny Roche of Wexford Co., had many children, died in Gurteen, and his widow and children were then either evicted or gave up the place and came to live in Coolcashin and they were the first of the family who lived in Coolcashin<sup>5</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> See, Fitzpatrick, M (2023). The Carrigan Manuscripts: the will of Thady Fitzpatrick, MD, 1674. The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society S1, 1-10. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety01423](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety01423).

<sup>2</sup> An Goirtín (Gorteen) in Laois, now in the Parish of Aghmacart.

<sup>3</sup> Cúil Chaisín in Cill Chainnigh (Co. Kilkenny).

<sup>4</sup> Baile Uí Bhuadáin in Laois.

<sup>5</sup> Carrigan considered Coolcashin Fitzpatricks descended from Geoffrey Fitzpatrick of Tintore (Tigh and Tuair in Laois) since, by Inquisition of 1631, Geoffrey (d. 1630) had held land near Gorteen and was buried at Aghmacart – and the burial vault there “belongs to the Fitzpatricks of Coolcashin” (Carrigan W, 1905. The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory. Dublin: Sealy, Bryers and Walker). Fiant 6551 of Elizabeth I, dated 10 June 1601, records pardons granted to Florence Fitzpatrick, third baron of Upper Ossory, and his retinue, among whom are Shane and Brazell (i.e., Breasal) mac Tirlagh óg, residents of Gorteen; also recorded are Tirlagh óg Fitzpatrick and another son, William óg, who were domiciled at Gracecastle (HMSO, 1885. The Seventeenth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland. Dublin: Alexander Thom for Her Majesty's Printing Office; Grace's Castle was once a large denomination in Aghmacart parish (see footnote 1). The Books of Survey and Distribution have Gorteen held by Keallagh mac Shane Fitzpatrick prior to being

John Fitzpatrick and Fanny Roche's children<sup>6</sup> were:

I. Daniel Fitzpatrick (1727-1802) who married Honor Shee of Grangemacomb<sup>7</sup> (aunt to Biddy Shee, his brother Denis' wife) lived [and] was [a] broker in Lisdowney<sup>8</sup>, then came to live in Freshford<sup>9</sup> [and] became an agent and died there in 1802 leaving one son Shawn oge, or John of the Chapel who never married, so that his line is extinct.

II. Ellen or Elleanor Fitzpatrick who married Mr William Maher of Freshford, the grandfather of old Mrs Mary Maher now of Freshford.

III. William Fitzpatrick who studied in the College of Coimbra or Salamanca<sup>10</sup> and died a few days after his ordination in Spain.

IV. Charles Fitzpatrick who died unmarried.

V. Denis Fitzpatrick of Coolcashin who married Mrs Biddy Shee of Grangemacomb, niece of his brother Daniel's wife Honor Shee, and had the following children:-

1. John Fitzpatrick the eldest married Catherine Scully, Tipperary.

2. William Fitzpatrick of Freshford father of Mr Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, now of Coolcashin<sup>11</sup>.

3. Richard Fitzpatrick.

4. Michael Fitzpatrick.

---

granted to Colonel John Fitzpatrick in 1663 (NAI QRO 1/1/3/13/19/10, Books of Survey and Distribution: Queenes County Aghavoe Parish Upper Ossory Barony, National Archives of Ireland), and reaffirmed in 1670 (PROI C 1/91/1/191. Patent Roll, 15 Charles II, Part II. Public Record Office of Ireland). Thady Fitzpatrick, MD, purchased Gorteen from Stephen Hales in 1668, and the bequeathed it to his son, John, a minor when his father died in 1674, which infers Coolcashin Fitzpatricks descend from Thady Fitzpatrick, MD, of the Mac Fynen line of Monhedrid (see Footnote 1 for the discussion of Thady Fitzpatrick's will in which he names the benefactors of his estates).

<sup>6</sup> As well as those recorded by Carrigan, there was Mary Fitzpatrick (1735-1809) who married Michael Byrne of Bayswell House. The marriage bond of 22 January 1761 records Mary's father as John Fitzpatrick, gentleman, of Gorteen. Mary is buried in Erke graveyard (Byrne-Rothwell D, 2010. The Byrnes and the O'Byrnes. Scalasaig: House of Lochar). She is erroneously positioned in Linea Antiqua as the daughter of Patrick Fitzpatrick, MD, son of Thady Fitzpatrick, MD. Thady also had a son, John, recorded in Linea Antiqua who has no associated wife or issue (O'Ferrall, R, (1709. Linea Antiqua, a collection of Irish genealogies compiled by Roger O'Ferrall, with index. Genealogical Office Manuscripts Collection MS 155). While some evidence points to Mary as the daughter of John, son of Thady, she would have been a child of his later years; it is possible Mary was the daughter of John, son of Patrick Fitzpatrick, MD, but this would require there to be a generational error in Linea Antiqua.

<sup>7</sup> Gráinseach Mochuma (Grangemacomb), Cill Chainnigh.

<sup>8</sup> Lios Dúnaigh, Cill Chainnaigh.

<sup>9</sup> A parish, town, and townland in north Cill Chainnigh.

<sup>10</sup> Universities in Portugal and Spain, respectively (de Hinojosa y Naveros, E, 1908. The Catholic Encyclopaedia. New York: Robert Appleton Company).

<sup>11</sup> Jeremiah, son of William Fitzpatrick died in 1895, hence it can be inferred that Volume 73 was written before this.

5. Denis Fitzpatrick of Freshford who married Mary Fogarty and was father of Father John Fitzpatrick P.P. [of] Clough<sup>12</sup>.

Daniel Fitzpatrick above, and his wife Honor Shee of Grangemacomb, had besides a son John of the Chapel, [a] daughter Mary Fitzpatrick who married (as his second wife) Mr Emanuel Murry of Kilkenny and so was step grandmother of old Miss Mary Maher, now of Freshford.

John Fitzpatrick and Fanny Roche, had, I believe, another son John Fitzpatrick who lived in Urlingford<sup>13</sup> or Ballyroe<sup>14</sup>, and was succeeded by his son John, and he in turn by his own son John who was the last of the family there.

The Fitzpatricks of Gurteen, Coolcashin, and Freshford were related to the Ballyboodan Fitzpatricks<sup>15</sup> but not the Ballogh Fitzpatricks.

### Volume 45: Fitzpatricks of Coolcashin

Dinny Fitzpatrick<sup>16</sup> of Gurteen had a big farm, and a great factory, and lived in Gurteen where James Bergin<sup>17</sup> lives now; [he] was a tenant under the Ballybooden family. He gave up his farm and place in Gurteen and removed to Coolcashin, having taken the farm there: it was [he] who built the vault in Aghamacart graveyard<sup>18</sup>.

He had (by his wife Biddy Shee of Grangemacomb), with other children, a son Shawn Caol<sup>19</sup> who succeeded him in Coolcashin House; Shawn Caol (married Catherine Scully, of Co. Tipperary) had an only daughter who married a big hunting man named Egan<sup>20</sup> from

---

<sup>12</sup> An Chloch, or Clogh, in Laois. In Volume 87, written 1885-1888, Carrigan noted, "Father John Fitzpatrick P.P. [Parish Priest] Clough was born in Freshford town about 1823. His mother was Fogarty. He was of the Coolcashin family, and Dinny Fitzpatrick now of Coolcashin is his first cousin".

<sup>13</sup> Urlingford (Áth na hUriann) is a townland and parish in Cill Chainnigh.

<sup>14</sup> Ballyroe is a denomination of Rahandrick Lower (Ráth Anraic Íochtarach), a townland in Laois

<sup>15</sup> Carrigan (1905) understood the Ballybooden Fitzpatricks to be the descendants of Thady Fitzpatrick, MD.

<sup>16</sup> That is, Denis Fitzpatrick, son of John Fitzpatrick and Fanny Roche.

<sup>17</sup> James Bergin of Gurteen died 11 November 1902 aged 79 years; the informant was his son, also James. James (senior) married Anastasia Cormack and they had several children; he appears in the 1901 Census of Ireland in the Kilnaseer electoral division (<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>, accessed 3 July 2024).

<sup>18</sup> The Aghamacart vault bears the inscription 'Pray for the souls of the Fitzpatrick family interred in this vault', and is dated ca. 1770 (Carrigan W, 1905).

<sup>19</sup> Caol, meaning thin or slender, anglicised Kyle.

<sup>20</sup> William Egan and Margaret Fitzpatrick were married 1 Dec 1832 in Lisdowney Parish and they also had two sons: Daniel (baptised 1 July 1836) and John Fitzpatrick Egan (baptised 30 July 1839 and living in March 1850) – the residence is provided as Coolcashin, and a sponsor, by proxy, was William Fitzpatrick. Notable on the marriage record is the bride's mother was murdered ca. 1850. Daniel and John's baptism records also note 'the grandmother of both sons, Mrs Fitzpatrick, was murdered ca. 1850'. The murder of Catherine Fitzpatrick née Scully received much newspaper coverage at the time and featured across the entire front page of the 20 March 1850 edition of the Kilkenny Moderator; that coverage is provided, in part, in Appendix 1.

Mouthrath<sup>21</sup>; at her death Egan and her little child went to America leaving Coolcashin<sup>22</sup> to the late Jerry Fitzpatrick<sup>23</sup>.

Coolcashin Fitzpatricks [are] not related to the Fitzpatricks of Ballybooden<sup>24</sup>.

September 1st 1800. Died Denis Fitzpatrick Esq. Coolcashin.

1802 died his brother Daniel Fitzpatrick of Freshford aged 75.

### Acknowledgements

The author expresses deep gratitude to St Kieran's College, Kilkenny, particularly Martina Lawlor, for providing access to Carrigan's manuscripts. Thanks also go to Dr Esther Fitzpatrick for helping to photograph the manuscripts.

---

<sup>21</sup> Maighean Rátha, Laois.

<sup>22</sup> The Griffith's Valuation of Kilkenny (ca. 1849) has William Egan holding approximately 204 acres in Coolcashin from William de Montmorency (<https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>, accessed 5 July 2024). This matches well the 205 acres advertised 1852 for sale by decree of the Incumbered Estates Court, the lease for which having been held by John Fitzpatrick (i.e., Shawn Caol) from 1808 until his death ca. 1848, and with Jeremiah Fitzpatrick in 1852 (Figure 1). It is notable that an 1812 survey of part of Coolcashin also showed some lands held by representatives of Daniel Fitzpatrick, son of John Fitzpatrick and Fanny Roche (Longfield Map Collection, National Library of Ireland. A survey of part of the lands of Coolcashin in the Barony of Galmoy and County of Kilkenny part of the estate of Sir William Morris. Surveyed in October 1812, by John Longfield).

<sup>23</sup> This is Jeremiah, son of William Fitzpatrick, who died in 1895. Hence, Volume 45 was written after this, but probably before 1902, which was when James Bergin senior died, unless Carrigan was referring to James junior (see footnote 17).

<sup>24</sup> Carrigan provides no evidence or explanation for changing to the opposite view he presented in Volume 73.

Figure 1: Coolcashin rental Incumbered Estate Court sale notice

**INCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.**

**COUNTY KILKENNY.**

**SALE on FRIDAY, the 4th day of JUNE, 1852.**

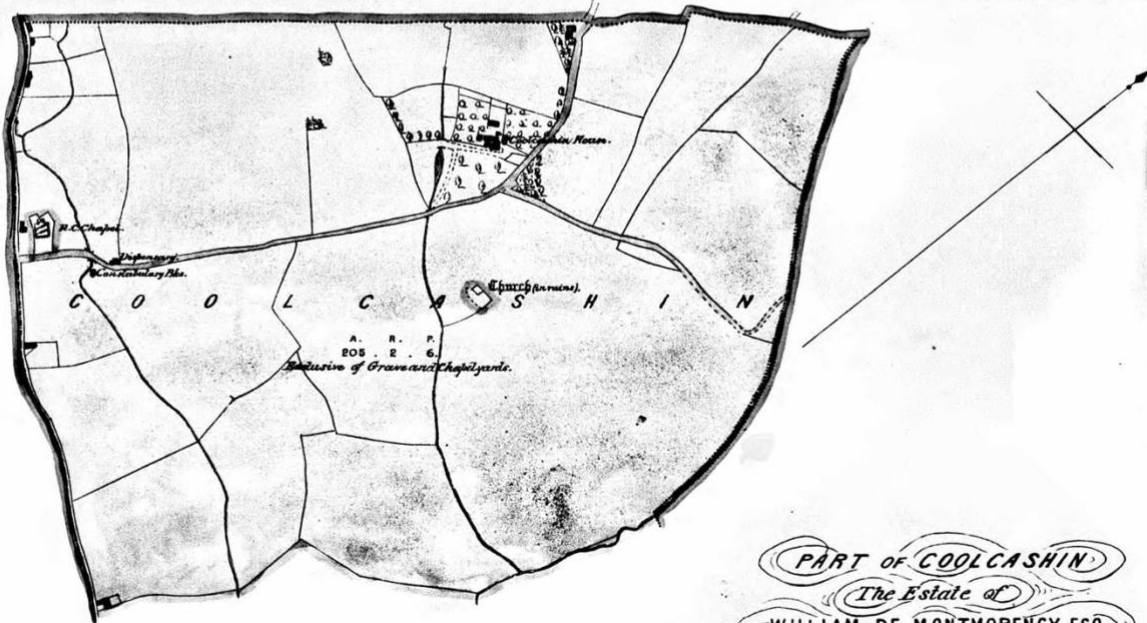
In the Matter of the Estate of **WILLIAM DE MONTMORENCY,** } **DENTAL** of Part of the LANDS OF COOLCASHIN, in the Barony of Galmoy, and } COUNTY OF KILKENNY, to be sold in this Matter, pursuant to Order of }  
*Owner and Petitioner.* } 7th December, 1849.

Denomination.	Tenant's Name.	Tenant's Tenure.	Gale Days.	Yearly Rent.		Quantity of Land, Statute Measure.		Quantity of Land, Irish Measure.				
				£	s.	d.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
Part of the Lands of COOLCASHIN,	Jeremiah Fitzpatrick,	Lease dated 18th Nov. 1850, demising Lands at yearly Rent of £1 8s. per acre, for 61 years, provided Wm. De Montmorency, the lessor, should so long live.	1st May and 1st Nov. in each year.	177	19	6	205	2	6	126	3	22

There is a good Mansion-house and Out-offices on this land, and a considerable quantity of valuable Timber, together with several Cottiers' Houses, a Dispensary, and a large slated house occupied as a Police Barrack. The Lands are of prime quality for Meadowing and Grazing, and for forty years previous to 1848 were held by lease by the late Mr. John Fitzpatrick, who during that time paid beyond £300 per annum therefor. The present tenant took them in the year 1848, under the Court, at £255 per annum, since which Mr. Wm. De Montmorency, the tenant for life, rolet them at the present low rent. They will be sold discharged of Quit Rent, the value of which will be paid out of the produce of the sale.

For further particulars apply at the Office of the Incumbered Estates Commission, Henrietta-street, Dublin; to GEORGE S. WYBRANTS, Solicitor having carriage of Sale, 7, Upper Ormond-quay, Dublin; to HENRY FLOOD, 46, North George's-street, Solicitor for the principal Incumbrancers; or to BARNABY SCOTT, Kilkenny.

**MAP OF THE LANDS.**



SCALE 18 INCHES TO 1 MILE.

**PART OF COOLCASHIN**  
*The Estate of*  
**WILLIAM DE MONTMORENCY ESQ**  
*(IN THE)*  
**County of Kilkenny**  
 ENLARGED FROM THE ORDINANCE SURVEY  
 BY J.T. HURFORD. 1852.

**Appendix 1: an account of the murder of Mrs Catherine Fitzpatrick, née Scully**

From the Kilkenny Moderator, 20 March 1850 – abridged.

**MURDER OF MRS. FITZPATRICK**

Thomas Cullenan and Philip Dullard were placed at the bar and arraigned for the murder of Catherine Fitzpatrick, committed on the 1st of February in the 12th year of the Queen (1849). The indictment recited that the said Catherine Fitzpatrick had been choked and suffocated by some person or persons unknown, and that such person or persons unknown was or were incited, moved, procured, caused and commanded to the murder by the prisoners at the bar. Another count charged the murder to have been committed by drowning.

The prisoner Cullenan was rather a good looking person, dressed as a comfortable farmer, and apparently between forty and fifty years of age. Dullard, is a younger man, and apparently, from his dress, of the labouring class. The expression of his countenance is forbidding in the extreme.

Messrs. Scott, QC, Sausse, QC, and Rollestone, QC, appeared for the Crown.

Messrs. Armstrong and Maher appeared for the defence; Mr. Delany as agent.

Mr. Scott, QC, proceeded to state the circumstances of the case to the jury. He mentioned that the murder had been committed on the first of February, 1849, the unfortunate lady, who was very old, having been found dead with her head sunk in a well of water, situate in the immediate neighbourhood of her residence. She was found in a position that would clearly demonstrate, he believed, to their full satisfaction, that she could not place herself in, as she lay, on her back with her head sunk under water, and her feet resting on the stone step. Her boots, in particular, were quite clean, although it was swampy and miry all round, and they must have been dirtied had she walked to the well. She had been living for a long time at the house of Coolcashin, and there farmed 150 acres of land, being a person of some wealth and respectability. Her farm servant was named Kavanagh, but she was in the habit of receiving advice and assistance in all her farm arrangements and business transactions from a neighbouring farmer, Thomas Cullenan, one of the prisoners at the bar.

The learned counsel then went into a detail of the evidence which would be produced to bring the case home to the prisoners; mentioning that several witnesses would prove that they saw the parties lurking in the neighbourhood about the time of the commission of the murder, and one man would depose that Cullenan had previously endeavoured to bribe him to commit this murder. The motive for the deed he referred to the circumstances that Cullenan had a short time previously effected an insurance for £450, on the life of the old lady, which sum he would be entitled to receive if she was put out of the way; and it was a very suspicious fact that a day or two before the murder Cullenan had gone to the agent of the Assurance Company, paid up a balance of a few shillings which he had been in arrear, and ascertained that the entire transaction was securely perfected. The case was purely circumstantial, but they would see how strong the circumstances were against Cullenan, and in addition it would appear that he (Cullenan) had endeavoured after his own arrest to fasten the crime on innocent individuals, the servants of Mrs. Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Armstrong addressed the jury for the defence in a very able and highly argumentative speech.

At eight o'clock the jury retired to their room, and were scarcely ten minutes in consultation when they returned, and handed in the issue paper, finding prisoners Not Guilty, amidst the most intense interest.

The spectators had been prepared by the tenor of the judge's charge for the acquittal of Dullard, but the fate of Cullenan held them in doubtful suspense, and on the announcement of a verdict a low murmur of many voices sounded through the court, but no other indication of feeling was expressed.

Cullenan, upon having his acquittal pronounced, slapped the front of the dock smartly with his hand, producing a loud noise; and soon after, addressing the governor, he observed, with rather a triumphant air, "Well, I didn't behave bad." Dullard said nothing, and did not appear much moved by the nature of the verdict.

The Court was adjourned.