

Gilla Pátraic in Irish Genealogies, Part I

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Abstract

The surname Fitzpatrick was, until recently, largely assumed to have arisen via the Normanisation-Anglicisation of Mac Giolla Phádraig, and that the Irish surname form belonged solely to one clan, of Ossory. Yet modern surname scholars now recognise the error of the earlier assumptions: Fitzpatrick was also a corruption of Ó Maol Phádraig, the surname of several distinct clans of Bréifne and Corcaigh (Breifne and Cork), and Mac Giolla Phádraig was the surname of several non-Ossorian clans.

Both Ó Maol Phádraig and Mac Giolla Phádraig are derived from given-names, viz., Máel Pátraic and Gilla Pátraic, the modern forms of which are Maol Phádraig and Giolla Phádraig, respectively, and cataloguing the historical occurrences of those given-names is one method of gaining insight into the possible emergence of the associated surnames.

This article is the first part of a review of the given name recorded as Gilla Pátraic in authoritative genealogies, which provides the context for when, where, and among which Irish population groups the surname Mac Giolla Phádraig may have emerged from an eponymous ancestor called Giolla Phádraig.

Names, styles, edits, and historical records

This article is written in English, but the people and places discussed are Irish. In order to acknowledge Gaeilge (Gaelic) and allow readers find locations on maps, place names are provided in modern Gaeilge using the most common spelling, for example, Inis Eoghain (Inishowen).

The rendering of given names and people referenced here requires consistency, as historical records can vary widely even for the same individual. The approach here is to use the most obvious and correctly spelt form of the given name, whether in Gaeilge or in English. Clan names or surnames are provided as they appear in the genealogies, along with, where possible, a rendition of their English form, with preference given to a standard spelling, e.g., as determined and published by authorities such as Woulfe¹ and Mac Lysaght².

This article is a living work – it can be edited by the authors and re-versioned. All versions will be retained.

¹ Woulfe, P (1923). *Sloinnte Gaedheal Is Gall: Irish names and surnames*. Dublin: MH Gill & Son.

² MacLysaght, E (1985). *Irish families: their names, arms and origins*. Dublin: Irish Academic Press.

Introduction

The eminent scholar Patrick Woulfe stated that the principal family of the surname Mac Giolla Phádraig, now Fitzpatrick, i.e., descendant of a '*servant of St Patrick*', was of Ossory, and that branches of that family '*settled in Clare, Cavan, Leitrim, and other parts of Ireland*'¹. Yet, the advent of Y-DNA testing has led to the understanding that there are several Fitzpatrick clans with numerous members who have unrelated direct surname lineages³.

Such insights have led to a deeper interrogation of archival records, bringing clarity to the Fitzpatricks identified by Woulfe. Notably, those of Cabhán (Cavan) and Liatroim (Leitrim) were probably Ó Maol Phádraig Bréifne clans⁴, while one of the clans of Clár (Clare) can demonstrate descent from Scannlán mac Giolla Pádraig Mac Giolla Phádraig, of Ossory⁵, in confirmation of Woulfe. The Y-DNA of Clár Fitzpatricks points to Dalcassian origins⁶, while the Y-DNA of Fitzpatricks of Laois and Kilkenny is most likely a result of a convoluted Norman-Irish gentry paternity, which by the sixteenth century had come to dominate the geo-political arena of Upper Ossory⁷.

Those Fitzpatrick clans of '*other parts of Ireland*' include the Ó Maol Phádraig Corcaigh, whose name is embedded in archival records via a townland in the Barony of Imokilly that was once known as Ballymulpatrick⁴, and the Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighean, who are similarly identified by their territory, Grange Mac Giolla Phádraig in Cill Dara (Co. Kildare)⁸. Further combined Y-DNA and archival research will likely uncover other non-Ossorian Ó Maol Phádraig and Mac Giolla Phádraig clans. Notably, the Fiants of Ireland provide many clues pointing to the existence of such clans⁹.

Another approach to identifying the ancient clan connections of modern Fitzpatricks is to explore the genealogical occurrence of the given names from which the surnames Ó Maol Phádraig and Mac Giolla Phádraig may have arisen¹⁰. Hence, an analysis of Clan Associated Surname Trees (CASTs) versus DNA Associated Surname Trees (DASTs) may reveal the primary Irish lineage or population group from which a Pátraic surname arose¹¹. Such an

³ Fitzpatrick, E and Fitzpatrick, M (2020). When everything changes: Using critical family history to deconstruct Keesing and Fitzpatrick surnames. *Genealogy* 4: 25. [doi:10.3390/genealogy4010025](https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy4010025).

⁴ Fitzpatrick, M and Fitzpatrick M (2025). Ó Maol Phádraig: the name, the people, and the clans. Part III. *The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society* 6, 27-41. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02425](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02425).

⁵ O'Ferrall, R (1709). *Linea Antiqua*, a collection of Irish genealogies compiled by Roger O'Ferrall, with index. Genealogical Office Manuscripts Collection MS 155.

⁶ Fitzpatrick, D, Fitzpatrick, I, Fitzpatrick, M (2022). Mac Giolla Phádraig Dál gCais: an ancient clan rediscovered. *The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society* 3, 1-45. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety00722](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety00722).

⁷ Fitzpatrick, M (2025). *Origines Phantasticus: The Father of R-FGC5494 ... FT265133*. *The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society* 6, 62-72. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02925](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02925).

⁸ Fitzpatrick, M (2025). The Mac Giolla Phádraig Laighean. *The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society* 6, 1-26. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02325](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02325).

⁹ Fitzpatrick, M (2021) Pátraic surnames in the Fiants and Patent Rolls of Ireland: Part 1: a method of approach to mega-data, and a Mac Caisín case study. *The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society* 2, 66-92. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety00621](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety00621).

¹⁰ Which were Máel Pátraic and Gilla Pátraic; the modern forms are Máel Phádraig and Giolla Phádraig.

¹¹ Fitzpatrick, M and Fitzpatrick, E (2024). Gene-Ealogy and the new era of Irish surname, clan, and kindred research. *The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society* 5, 62-70. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02224](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02224).

approach has proven successful in exploring Ó Maol Phádraig clans⁴, and the same methodology will be used later in this series of articles to explore the origins of Mac Giolla Phádraig clans.

The origins of Gilla Pátraic

It is said that Pátraic (Patrick) was not found in Ireland as a distinct given name until the arrival of Anglo-Normans²; in reverence to the saint, the mere Irish considered Pátraic too sacred to use directly¹². The early forms appear limited to Gilla Pátraic and Máel Pátraic (i.e., follower of and servant of, respectively, Patrick), and 'when used by the Anglo-Normans it was rendered Pádraigín by the Irish'¹.

Gilla-type given names do not appear in annalistic records until 977 AD, whereas Máel-type names occur much earlier, from 611 AD. Hence, it should not surprise that the first Gilla Pátraic surname record appears in 983 AD¹³, some 136 years after the surname Máel Pátraic first appears. The use of Máel, meaning 'crop-headed or shorn'¹⁴, followed by a proper name '*received its chief development after the introduction of Christianity*' to Ireland; the general form being Máel-Dei¹⁵, i.e., it was followed by a Saint's name, indicating tonsure. Máel-type names were common throughout the seventh and eighth centuries before declining from the late tenth century as Gilla-type names emerged¹⁶. Yet, Gilla was not Norse in origin, as some have proposed; rather, the rise of Gilla-type names was due to '*a model change in Irish nomenclature*'¹⁷.

Although the historicity of St Patrick is complicated by the fact that there were '*two or possibly three Patricks*' it is clear he was revered from the mid seventh century, notably among, first, the Oirghialla and, then, the Uí Néill, via their alliances. Patrick had become one of Ireland's pre-eminent saints by the ninth century, hence Pátraic-type names surely would have been expected during that era; and Pátraic-type names may also have undergone a revival in the Viking era when Patrician relics began to 'come into the fore'¹⁸.

There is also a pattern of different geographic distribution of the given names Gilla Pátraic versus Máel Pátraic. A simple survey to estimate the relative frequency of the forms used in early times can be undertaken using annalistic records or genealogical works, and Gilla Pátraic is approximately three times as common as Máel Pátraic. Also notable is that while Gilla Pátraic is found among many clans, such as those summarised by Ó Muraíle¹⁹, across

¹² Withycombe, E (1978). *The Oxford Dictionary of Christian Names*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

¹³ Hennessy, W (1887). *Annals of Ulster: otherwise Annals of Senat; a chronicle of Irish affairs*. Dublin: HMSO.

¹⁴ Electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language. <https://dil.ie>: accessed 7 February 2026.

¹⁵ Marstander, C (1918). *Altirisch Gillae*. *Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie*, 12, 309-322.

¹⁶ Ó Máille, T (1910). *The language of the Annals of Ulster*. Manchester: University Press.

¹⁷ Gilla-words 'appeared in Irish literature as early as the first half of the ninth century' being derived from *gildae*, with probable old French or Latin roots meaning soldier, hireling (armed with a lance), recruit, etc. (Marstander, 1918). Also, Pokorny, J, (1918). *Vermischtes*. *Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie*, 12, 298-308.

¹⁸ Erskine, S (2012). *The relic cult of St Patrick between the seventh and the late twelfth centuries in its European contexts* [thesis], University of Glasgow (Scotland). School of Humanities: pp 226.

¹⁹ Mac Fhirbhisigh, D and Ó Muraíle, N (2003). *Leabhar mór na generalcy*. Dublin: De Burca.

all of Éire, a pattern matching the modern distribution of Fitzpatrick²⁰ – Máel Pátraic is found among fewer, and mostly among clans of the northern half of Éire²¹.

The Genealogies

The genealogical records reviewed here, collectively referred to here as ‘the genealogies’, are mostly drawn from Mac Fhirbisigh²². The scope of Mac Fhirbisigh’s work is large, and its title, ‘The Great Book of Irish Genealogies’ (hereafter, *GBIG*), is more than fitting; the tome names 30,511 people, and there are 6,625 distinct given names.

The modern publication of *GBIG*, in five volumes, also contains very much useful editorial matter, including a detailed introduction and several indexes. The latter utilise the editor’s abbreviations of dynastic and population group names, which are mostly based on the scheme laid out in the medieval ‘The Book of the taking of Ireland’ (Leabhar Gabhála Éireann), alias ‘The Book of Invasions’²³. Scholars consider that some population group definitions are unlikely to be fully accurate²⁴, while others are relevant descriptors of credible lineages, although even there it cannot be assumed they always represent patrilineal succession²⁵. For example, a failure to recognise that Irish dynasts often subsumed clans of a different patrilineage might lead to a narrow interpretation of genealogies alongside modern-day Irish surnames and, importantly, their associated Y-DNA haplotypes. For example, modern surname associations that mirror Uí Néill lineages may occur well outside established Uí Néill Y-DNA haplotypes.

Within *GBIG* are sixty-one discrete Gilla Pátraic occurrences, which places it as the seventy-fifth most numerous among the given names collated. Hence, as will be demonstrated here, the number of clan-associated surnames potentially linked with Gilla Pátraic numbers several hundred. Of the other main genealogical works reviewed, none are close to the scope of *GBIG*. *Corpus Genealogiarum Hiberniae*²⁶ (hereafter, *CGH*) contains ‘*pre-Norman Irish and related tracts from the twelfth century*’; those manuscripts are ‘Rawlinson B.502’

²⁰ Fitzpatrick, E and Fitzpatrick, M (2020). When Everything Changes: Using Critical Family History to Deconstruct Keesing and Fitzpatrick Surnames. *Genealogy*, 4, 25. <https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy4010025>.

²¹ Fitzpatrick, M and Mag Fhionnghaile, P (2024). Ó Maol Phádraig: the name, the people, and the clans. Part II. *The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society* 5, 25-42. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02024](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety02024).

²² Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbisigh (or Duaid Mac Firis, d. 1671) was an Irish genealogist who completed *Leabhar na nGenealach* (The Great Book of Irish Genealogies) ca. 1666. The modern translation is published as *Mac Fhirbisigh, D and Ó Muraíle, N (2003). Leabhar Mór na nGenealach*. Dublin: De Burca.

²³ For an introduction to *Leabhar Gabhála Éireann*, and the complexities of its manuscripts and versions see, Scowcroft, R (1987). *Leabhar Gabhála Part I: the growth of the text*. Ériu, 38, 81-142.

²⁴ For example, *GBIG* positions the Uí Bhriúin septs closely related to the Uí Néill, since Brian and Niall are both sons of Eochaidh Muighmheadhón. But scholars consider Niall’s “relationship to his ‘brothers’”, including Brian, who were connected with Connacht “must be treated with considerable scepticism” (O’Rahilly T, 1976. *Early Irish history and mythology*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, .p.221).

²⁵ For example, *GBIG* has numerous genealogies of the Uí Néill, i.e., of Niall Naoighiallach (i.e., ‘Niall of the Nine Hostages’), the fifth century Irish King whose name was utilised by his ancestors and many local rulers, who “were neither a tribe nor a group of tribes, but a dynasty”. The Uí Néill “had no reason to invent a common ancestry” but “some local rulers of sufficient standing to avoid total subordination managed to have their pedigrees grafted onto Niall’s stem” (Byrne F, 1973. *Irish kings and high kings*, p.71. London: BT Batsford).

²⁶ O’Brien, M (1976). *Corpus Genealogiarum Hiberniae*, Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

and ‘The Book of Leinster’, ‘with variants and some additions from parallel material’ in ‘The Book of Lecan’ and the ‘Book of Ballymote’. *CGH* has fourteen occurrences of Gilla Pátraic, nine of which are found in *GBIG*. There are seventeen Gilla Pátraic occurrences in the Ó Cléirigh book of genealogies²⁷, seven of which are found in *GBIG*.

Part I reviews twenty one of the occurrences in the following population groups defined in *GBIG*:

- Uí Néill an Tuaiscirt, who *GBIG* records mostly as descending from Eoghan and Conall Gulban, two sons of Niall Naoighiallach, son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhóin; Northern O’Neill, abbreviated NT.
- Uí Néill an Deiscirt, who *GBIG* records mostly as descending from Conall Creamhthainne and Cairbre, two sons of Niall Naoighiallach, son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhóin; Southern O’Neill, abbreviated ND.
- Uí Bhriúin; Síol Briain or O’Brien septs of the Connachta, who are said to descend from Bríón son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhóin. They include the Uí Bhriúin Aí (O’Brien of Mag nAí, Connacht), Uí Bhriúin Bhréifne (O’Brien of Breifne), Uí Bhriúin Seóla (O’Brien of Maigh Seóla, Gaillimh ~ Co. Galway), and Uí Bhriúin Umhaill (O’Brinn of Umhaill, Maigh Eo ~ Co. Mayo, abbreviated C-B.
- The Uí Fhiachrach of the Connachta, who are said to descend from Fiachra son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhóin, include the Fir Cheara (Carra, Maigh Eo), Uí Fhiachrach Muaidhe (of the Valley of the River Moy, Maigh Eo), and Uí Fhiachrach Aidhne (of the Plain of Aidhne, Gaillimh), abbreviated C-F.

A map showing the broad locations of the said population groups is provided in Figure 1. The occurrences of Giolla Pátraic in *GBIG*, along with their population group and specific branch connections, are summarised in Table 1.

There are eleven occurrences of Gilla Pátraic in the genealogies of the Uí Néill an Tuaiscirt. Ten are among the **Cineál Eoghain**, i.e., the kindred of Eoghan (Owen), son of Niall Naoighiallach, an Uí Néill branch once centred at Aileach on Inis Eoghain (Inishowen, i.e., Eoghan’s Peninsula) in Dún na nGall (Donegal). **Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Chríost**, was the father of Lochlann, who was the eponymous founder of Clan MacLachlan of Scotland. The tradition of Clan MacLachlan is that they descend from the thirteenth-century chieftain Lachlann Óg, who lived on the shores of Loch Fyne on the west coast of Argyll²⁸. The descent of Lachlann Óg was from Ánrathán, who was eighteenth from Eoghan. **Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Mártain**, was fourth from Odhar²⁹, fifth from Cellach³⁰, and ninth from Aodh Olláin (or Áed Allán), High King of Ireland (d. 743)³¹.

²⁷ Cú Choigríche Ó Cléirigh (or Cucogry O’Clery, d. 1664), who assisted in transcribing the Annals of the Four Masters (Connellan, O, 1846. The Annals of Ireland translated from the original Irish. Dublin: Bryan Geraghty). Also known for The O’Clery Book of Genealogies (Pender, S. 1951. *Analecta Hibernica* 18: x-xxxiii, 1-198).

²⁸ Way, G (1998). *Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopedia*. New York: Barnes & Noble Inc.

²⁹ From whom are the Uí Uidhir (O’Dwyer); *GBIG* 126.11.

³⁰ From whom are the Uí Cheallaigh (O’Kelly); *GBIG* 126.11.

³¹ Byrne, F (1973).

Table 1: Occurrences of the given-name Gilla Pátraic³² in the genealogies of the Uí Néill an Tuaiscirt, Uí Néill an Deiscirt, Uí Bhriúin, and the The Uí Fhiachrach of the Connachta.

Occurrence	Population Group	Branch	References ³³
Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Críost	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Mag Lachlann ³⁴ Óg in Scotland	125.3 ³⁵
Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Mártain	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Síol Aodh Olláin	127.6
Gilla Pátraic, son of Séamas	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Ó Cathain ³⁶	Ó Cléirigh §491
Gilla Pátraic, son of Conchobhar	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Ó Cathain	Ó Cléirigh §491
Gilla Pátraic, son of Truimín	NT	Cineál Eoghain; family of Cionaith, son of Conchobhar	129.3
Gilla Pátraic, son of Maol Mithidh	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Cineál Diarmada	131.1
Gilla Pátraic, son of Flaithhrí	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Clann Duibhionnrachta ³⁷	131.15
Gilla Pátraic, son of Maghnus	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Ó Croidhéin ³⁸	140.2
Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Muire	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Cineál Binnigh	143.3 ³⁹
Gilla Pátraic, son of Ragnall	NT	Cineál Eoghain; Cineál Fearghusa	Ó Cléirigh §727

³² Gilla Pátraic is used as a standard spelling throughout; the modern form is Giolla Phádraig. Names spellings in *GBIG* generally follow Mac Fhirbhisigh, D and Ó Muraíle, N (2003).

³³ According to Mac Fhirbhisigh's pagination and numbering, unless stated otherwise.

³⁴ That is, MacLaughlin.

³⁵ Ó Cléirigh §1772.

³⁶ That is, O'Cahan, O'Kane, etc.

³⁷ That is, O'Duibhlin, Devlin.

³⁸ That is, O'Crean.

³⁹ Ó Cléirigh §689.

Table 1, continued: Occurrences of the given-name Gilla Pátraic in the genealogies of the Uí Néill an Tuaiscirt, Uí Néill an Deiscirt, Uí Bhriúin, and the Uí Fhiachrach of the Connachta.

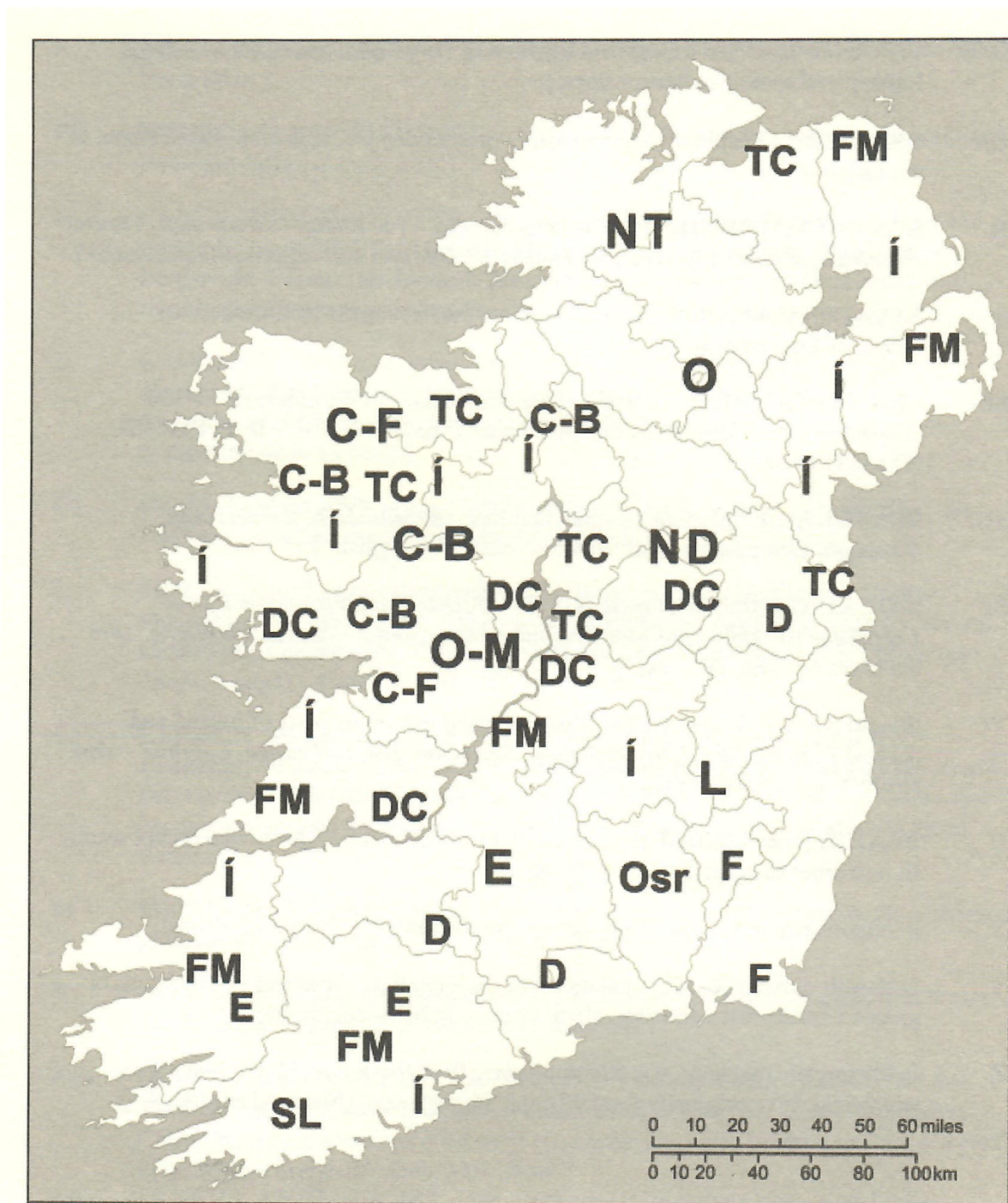
Occurrence	Population Group	Branch	References ³²
Gilla Pátraic, son of Mac Raith	NT	Cineál Conaill; Mac Giolla Fhinnéin ⁴⁰	156.5
Gilla Pátraic, son of Flannagán	ND	Cineál Cairbre; Ó Flannagáin ⁴¹	168.6
Gilla Pátraic, son of Maghnus	ND	Cineál Cairbre; Ó Flannagáin	168.6
Gilla Pátraic, son of Muireadhach	C-B	Uí Bhriúin; the family of Duach Galach	201.1
Gilla Pátraic Fionn, son of Conchobhar	C-B	Uí Bhriúin Seóla; Clann Donnchaidh Uí Fhlaithbheartaigh	204.4
Gilla Pátraic, son of Murchadh	C-B	Uí Bhriúin Aí; Muintir Fhlannagáin GBIG 213.4	Ó Cléirigh §1152
Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Comhghall	C-B	Uí Bhriúin Aí; Uí Mhuireadhaigh	215.16
Gilla Pátraic, son of Diarmuid	C-B	Uí Bhriúin Aí; Mag Oíreachtaigh	225.3
Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Comáin	C-B	Uí Bhriúin Aí; Uí Dhiarmada	233.11
Gilla Pátraic, son of Fear Bisigh	C-F	Uí Fhiachrach Muaidhe; Clann Fhir Bhisigh ⁴²	262.2
Gilla Pátraic, son of Seóirse	C-F	Uí Fhiachrach Muaidhe; Uí Dhubhda ⁴³	267.2

⁴⁰ Woulfe (1922) records the surname as Mac Gillinnion, Mac Alinnon, etc., and the ‘disguised’ Anglicised form, Leonard, and notes the family were ‘the most royal in Ireland’.

⁴¹ That is, O’Flanagan.

⁴² Whence, Mac Firisigh, Mac Firis; the family name of GBIG’s author.

⁴³ That is, O’Dowd.

Figure 1: Map of Dynasty and Population Group Abbreviations.

Reproduced from Mac Fhirbhisigh, D and Ó Muraile, N (2003). *Leabhar Mór na nGenealach*. Dublin: De Burca.

Gilla Pátraic, son of Séamas, son of **Gilla Pátraic, son of Conchobhar**, are recorded by Ó Cléirigh among the Ó Cathain, who took their name from Cathán, a great-grandson of Fearghal, a High King of Ireland who died in 722 AD at the Battle of Allen³¹, who was seventh from Eoghain.

Gilla Pátraic, son of Truimín, was of the family of Cionaoth⁴⁴, who was a grandson of King Fearghal (d. 722 AD). **Gilla Pátraic, son of Maol Mithidh**, was seventh from Diarmuid, another grandson of Fearghal, and therefore of the **Cineál Diarmada**⁴⁵ branch of the Cineál Eoghain. **Gilla Pátraic, son of Flaithrí**, was fifth from Duibhionnracht, a further grandson of Fearghal, and hence was of Clann Duibhionnrachta⁴⁶.

Gilla Pátraic, son of Magnus, was of the Ó Croidhéin, who were in turn of the Cineál Tighearnaigh branch of the Cineál Eoghain, from whom came many clans⁴⁷. Similarly, numerous clans stemmed from the Cineál Binnigh, a branch of the Cineál Eoghain who descend from Eochaidh Binneach, a son of Eoghan, of whom Mac Fhirbisigh wrote:

‘our burden is so great and these [families] are thought to matter so slightly that we will not set out their pedigrees any further, however, whoever wished will find them in full, according to age, in the Derivative Book of Leacán Meic Fhir Bhisigh’⁴⁸.

The Cineál Binnigh clans that were recorded are summarised in **Appendix I**. Among the Cineál Binnigh was **Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Muire**.

And another Cineál Eoghain branch is the Cineál Fearghusa, who descend from Fearghus, a son of Eoghan, among whom was **Gilla Pátraic, son of Ragnall**. The many clans of the Cineál Fearghusa are provided in **Appendix II**.

Also of the Uí Néill an Tuaiscirt was **Gilla Pátraic, son of Mac Raith**, of the **Cineál Conaill**, i.e., the kindred of Conall Gulban, son of Niall Naoighiallach, an Uí Néill branch from whom is named the territory of Tir Chonaill (Tyrconnell), which broadly equates to modern-day Dún na nGall (Donegal). Gilla Pátraic was a grandson of Giolla Finnéin and was counted among the Mac Giolla Fhinnéin⁴⁹.

⁴⁴ From whom came Uí Chuinn (O’Quinn), Uí Mhaonáin (O’Moonan), Uí Mhothlacháin (O’Mollaghan), Uí Mhughróin (O’Morrán), Uí Ghairnéin (O’Gearáin), and Uí Uitidéin; *GBIG* 129.2.

⁴⁵ From whom came Uí Cheinnéidigh (O’Kennedy), Uí Chorráin (Curran, Currane, Crahan, Crane), and Uí Chorréighe (which no longer exists as a surname, but would have been anglicised as Corry or Currihy).

⁴⁶ From whom came Ó Doibhleacháin (O’Dullaghan), Ó Laithre, and Ó Tanaighe (O’Tanney).

⁴⁷ From Tighearnach, a grandson of Eoghan, came Uí Chuacáin, Uí Fhoirréigh (O’Furey), Ó hEoghasa (Hosey), Ó Muireadhaigh (Murray), Ó Deasadháin, Uí Bhranáin (Brannan), Uí Choirréarcáin (Ó Corcaráin, Corcran), Uí Chathaláin (O’Cahalane), Uí Ógáin (Hogan), Uí Mhaoil Fhothartaigh (Ó Maol Fhathartaigh, Mulhartaigh), Uí Choinneagáin (Ó Coinneagáin, Cunningham, Kennigan), Uí Alladha (the singular Ó h-Alladha, would give O’Halla, Hallow, Haley; although Haley is a surname, it has a different Gael form), Ó Beacháin (Behane), Ó hOdhraín (O’Horan), and Ó Muirgheasa (Morris, Morrissey).

⁴⁸ *GBIG* 143.2. The Book of Leacán Meic Fhir Bhisigh, i.e., ‘The Book of Lecan’ was written mainly by Giolla Íosa Mac Fhirbisigh, with the assistance of Adam Ó Cuirnín and Murchad Riabach Ó Cuindlis. Leabhar Mór Leacain ~ The Book of Lecan, RIA MS 23 P 2, <https://www.ria.ie/collections/manuscripts/irish-language-manuscripts/leabhar-mor-leacain-the-book-of-lecan>.

⁴⁹ That is Mac Gillinnion; a related clan was Uí Mhaoil Doraidh (O’Muldorey).

GBIG has two records of Gilla Pátraic in the genealogies of the Uí Néill an Deiscirt among the genealogies of Cairbre, son of Niall Naoighiallach, whence came the Cineál Cairbre. Both occurrences are in a section entitled '*A different version of the genealogy of the Ó Flannagáin of Tuath Rátha*', i.e., '*the chieftains*'⁵⁰. The first record is of **Gilla Pátraic, son of Flannagán**, from whom the clan was named, and the second record is for **Gilla Pátraic, son of Maghnus**, who is fifteenth from his namesake.

Gilla Pátraic occurs six times among the genealogies of the Brión, son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhóin, i.e., the Uí Bhriúin. While a text probably written in the late ninth or tenth century names but six sons of Brión⁵¹, post tenth-century sources, such as *GBIG*, record that '*Brión had twenty-four sons*'. Connón writes, '*No doubt the increasing power of the Uí Bhriúin was responsible for this dramatic swelling of the ranks, as tribes and dynasties newly coming under Uí Bhriúin sway were furnished with ancestries that would link them genealogically to their overlords*'⁵².

Gilla Pátraic, son of Muireadhach, was of a Uí Bhriúin line that is not recorded as having a sept name, being referred to simply as of the family of Duach Galach⁵³. His descent was through Lorcán, who was fourth from Eirín, a son of Duach Galach, son of Brión. Lorcán had seven sons, but his line became extinct except for those who descended from his son, Geimhreadhán⁵⁴, from whom Gilla Pátraic was fourth.

Among the Uí Bhriúin Seóla, who stem from Duach Teangumha^{31,55}, King of Connacht, son of Fearghus, who was fourth from Brión, was **Gilla Pátraic Fionn, son of Conchobhar**. He was of Clann Donnchaidh of Iarthar (western) Connacht, who were a branch of the Uí Fhlaithbheartaigh⁵⁶.

There are four records of Gilla Pátraic among the Uí Bhriúin Aí who stem from Eochaidh Tiormcharna, son Fearghus, who was fourth from Brión. **Gilla Pátraic, son of Murchadh**, is found in Ó Cléirigh's account of the Uí Flannagáin, adding '*Ó bhfuil an sloinne*'⁵⁷. The clan was of Ros Comáin (Co. Roscommon)¹, and were among the descendants of Muireadhach Muilleathán, King of Connacht (d. 702)³¹. **Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Comhghall** of

⁵⁰ The Ó Flannagáin (O'Flanagan) clan were hereditary chieftains of Tuath Rátha (Toora) in the barony of Magheraboy. (Ua Duinnín P (1917). *Meg Guidhir Fhearmanach*. Dublin: MG Gill and Son). The 'alternative' genealogy is incomplete, whereas that provided in *GBIG* 167.8 has the descent of the Ó Flannagáin from Éanna, son of Cairbre.

⁵¹ Stokes W (1887). *The Tripartite Life of Patrick*. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office. The last additions to the text were probably written in the twelfth century (Máire H (2001). "Latin and Vernacular Hagiography of Ireland from the Origins to the Sixteenth Century". *Hagiographies*, 3, 327-60)

⁵² Connón A (2005). Uí Bhriúin. In *Medieval Ireland an Encyclopedia*, Duffy S (Ed.). New York: Routledge.

⁵³ *GBIG* 200.4

⁵⁴ *GBIG* 200.11

⁵⁵ Whom *GBIG* 201.3 records was given his name 'from the sweetness of his speech, for the music of harps was not sweeter than every word from him'.

⁵⁶ That is, O'Flaherty, who descend from Flaithbheartach, who was twelfth from Duach Teangumha. *GBIG* 201.5 and 202.6 records another clan Uí Fhlaithbheartaigh, from Magh Cuillinn (Moycullen) in Gnó Beag (a former kingdom in western Co. Galway) whose descent was from Urumha, who was eleventh from Duach Teangumha.

⁵⁷ Whence the surname.

unrecorded descent, is counted among the Uí Mhuireadhaigh of Aithneach⁵⁸; the eponymous Muireadhach was seventh from Eochaidh Tiormcharna.

Gilla Pátraic was one of seven sons of **Diarmuid the Erenagh**, and is recorded under the genealogy of Mag Oíreachtaigh⁵⁹, who took their surname from Oíreachtach, who was ninth from Eochaidh Tiormcharna. **Gilla Pátraic, son of Giolla Comáin**, was another of the Uí Bhriúin Aí, and he is recorded under the lineage of Diarmuid Fionn, King of Connacht (818-833)³¹, a son of Tomaltach⁶⁰. From Diarmuid Fionn came the Uí Dhiarmada⁶¹.

One of the two occurrences of the given-name among the Uí Fhiachrach of the Connachta is **Gilla Pátraic, son of Fear Bisigh**, from whom are Clann Fhir Bhisigh of Leacán⁶². The well-known clan of hereditary historians was of the Uí Fhiachrach Muaidhe having their descent from Fiachra Ealgach, son of Dath Í, an early King of Connacht³¹. Also among the Uí Fhiachrach Muaidhe was **Gilla Pátraic, son of Seóirse**, who *GBIG* records were of the Uí Dhubhda of Áth Cliath⁶³; the eponymous ancestor was Dubhda, son of Connmhach, descended from Maol Dubh, son of Fiachra Ealgach.

Gilla Pádraig in Irish Genealogies *Part II* will review the occurrences of the given-name among the Oirghialla, the people of mid-Ulster, and the Uí Mhaine, who are said to be a Connacht offshoot of the Oirghialla.

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⁵⁸ A former kingdom in western Co. Galway.

⁵⁹ That is, Mac Geraghty, *GBIG* 224.20.

⁶⁰ Who *GBIG* describes as 'a famous son' of Murghal, son of Ionnrachtact; the latter was a son of Muireadhach Muilleathán.

⁶¹ A former kingdom in northern Co. Galway. *GBIG* 233.2-239.13 provides extensive genealogies and historical narratives for Diarmuid Fionn and his descendants, among whom were the Uí Fhearghail (Ó Farrell), Uí Chon Ceanainn (Ó Concannon), Mac Mheic Dhudhra, Uí Loingsigh (Lynch), Meic Uadach (), Clann Chonaill (Conall), Clann Ghiolla Chomáin (Gillacoman), Meic Raghallaigh (Reilly), Meic Ailín (Mac Allen), Meic Conghaláin (McConlan), Meic an Chrosáin (Mac Crossan), Meic Mheic Bhaoighealláin (Boylan), Uí Aodha (Hayes), Uí Mhothláin (Molan), Uí Fhinn (Finn) 'the timpanists', Meic Giolla Bhearaigh (Mac Gilvary), Clann Mhughróin (Moran), Clann Chon Raoich, Meic Giolla nan nAmhas (), Meic Mheic Mhaith (Goodfellow), Ghiolla Chríost (Gilchrist), Uí Duinn (Ó Dunn), and Clann Mhaoil Ruanaidh (Mulrooney).

⁶² *GBIG* 262.2

⁶³ O'Dowd of Dublin, among whom were also the Ó Dubhdálaigh (Dudley).

Appendix I

From Eochaidh Binneach, a son of Eoghan, came Clan Oisín (Ó hOisín), Ó Comhair (Comhair), Ó Broin (O'Byrne), Ó Bogaigh (Buggy), Ó Brolaigh (Brolly), Meic Con Caille (Makeylly), Ó Con Bheathadh, Ó Murchahdáin (O'Morahan), Ó Duibh Railbhe, Ó Trodáin (Trodden), Mac Donnchadha (Mac Donagh), Mac Meic Mhadadháin (Mac Madden), Mac Éireamhóin (Erwine), Mac Meic Scéith, Mac Giolla Chróin, Ó Daimhín (Devine), Ó Drugáin (Drogen), Ó Duibh (Duff), Mac Meic Longairg, Mac Cairréige (Mac Carrick), Clann Chearnaigh (Kearney), Ó Seanáin (Shannon), Ó Con Chaithise, Ó Catharnaigh (O'Caharney), Ó Laidhgnéin, Ó Draighnéin (Drennan), Ó Furadhráin (Forane, Ford), Mac Muirr (Mac Murray), Ó Conaill (O'Connell), Uí Chairealláin (O'Carrollan), Uí Dhálacháin (O'Dallaghan), Uí Dháidh (probably O'Dea, although the correct form would be Uí Dháibhidh), Uí Nárgaile, Uí Dhordáin (Dordan), Ó Giolláin (O'Gillane), Ó Duibh Thuinne (Tuinne), Ó Fothadáin (Fodan, Fohadan), Ó Datháin (O'Dayin), Uí Reannagáin (O'Renagan), Ó Duineachaidh (Dennehy), Uí Mhaoil Tréin, Mac Oirc (Mac Guirk), Uí Muineacháin (Monaghan), Clann Fhorballaigh, Clann Odhráin (Odran), Clann Tíreacháin, Clann Eachach (Haughey), Ó Maoil Chuilléin, Ó Dubhscuile (Duscooley), Uí Fhorannáin (O'Foran), Uí Fhearáin (Fearan), Uí Loingseacháin (Lynch), Uí Mhaoil Mhartain (Mulmartin), Ó Lachtnáin (Loughnane), Ó Cormaic (O'Cormac), Ó Tuathghaile (O'Toole), Ó Caochdhamháin, Ó Máin (Main), and Ó Fionnagáin (Finnegan)⁶⁴.

Appendix II

From Fearghus, a son of Eoghan, came Uí Ágáin (O'Hagan), Clann Cuanach (Cooney), Uí Luith (Léiteach, Leitch), Uí Chorráin (Curran), Clann Bhaothghalaigh (Behilly), Ó Canaigh (Canny), Uí Dhuibh (O'Duff), Uí Dubhthacháin (Doohan), Uí Ghaillín (Gallan), Uí Eimhín (Evin), Clann Robhartaigh (O'Roarty), Ó Ceallaigh (O'Kelly), Clann Bhrudair (Broder), Uí Mhaoil Fhábhail (Lavelle), Uí Ógáin (Hogan), Uí Dhoiréid (O'Durret, which has not survived), Uí Mhaoil Mhoichéirghe (Early, Mulmohery), Uí Chreabhair, Uí Aintigh, otherwise Meic Conghail Ghamhain (Gamhain, Mac Connel of Gamhain in Cabhán, centred around Loch Gamhna, i.e., Lough Gowna), Uí Loscaigh (O'Lusky, which is extinct; there are two townlands called Achadh Loiscthe, i.e., Aghalusky, in Maigh Eo), Uí Lócháin (anglicised Lohan, Lahan, Duck, and Chaff), Uí Bhearaigh (Ó Bearaigh, Barry; unrelated to the Norman family), Ó Fraocharáin (possibly Ó Fraocháin, O'Freagan, Frehen), Ó Duibhle, Ó Duibhghiolla (probably a variant of the former), Ó Díneartaigh (Dinerty), Ó Muirneacháin (O' Murnaghan), Ó Dobhráin (which would give O'Doran, which most often stems from Ó Deoráin), and Ó Dubháin (Duvane, Dwane), Uí Shearcacháin (O'Sharkaghan), Uí Chonalláin (Connellan), Uí Eimhréin (Evan, which is obsolete), Ó hAngaile (Hanley), Ó hUdhmalláin (O'Houllan), Ó Beóchruidhe, Teallach Cionaotha (i.e., the House of Cionadh, i.e., Kenny), which probably refers to the family of Uí Maine lords of Gaillimh and Ros Comáin, Uí Bhranagáin (Ó Branagáin, Brannigan), Uí Aodhagáin (Ó h-Aodhagáin, Hagan), Uí Mhaoil Bhrighde na Muigheadh (Ó Maol Bhrighde, i.e., Mulready or Mulbreedy, of Maigh, or Moy, which refers to one of several placenames), Uí Chathláin (a form of Ó Cathaláin, Cahalane), Teallach Muireadhaigh (i.e., House of Muireadhach, Murray), Ó Loingseacháin (Lynchehan, Lynch), Ó Naisc, Ó Beargha (Barry, unrelated to the Norman family), Ó Scurre (Ó Scurra, Scurry, Scarry), Ó Maoil Fhinn (O'Maillin), Ó Flannáin (O'Flannane), Ó Colla (Mac Colla, Coll), Uí Mhurchadha (Murphy), Uí Bhreóilbh, Mhaoláin (Mullin), Uí Dhioghnaidh, Uí Airisnigh, Uí Bhreacáin (Bracken), and Clann Úbáin (Hoban)⁶⁵.

⁶⁴ GB/G 141.4-144.5.

⁶⁵ GB/G 144.6-147.2.