



THE EMERALD DRAGON

The official newsletter of the Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society

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**The Emerald Dragon
Newsletter**

**Summer 2021
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Send an email to:

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Leave the subject line blank. Sign-up is free and can be unsubscribed at any time.

*List subscription is required for official Clan Society membership.

Article Submissions:

If you have an article, story, family history, genealogical query, or other material you wish to contribute to *The Emerald Dragon* newsletter, please submit any text or images to the Editor at:

thefitzpatrickproject@gmail.com

*Some editing may be required.

Welcome to the Official Newsletter

– By Ronan Fitzpatrick, Clan Society Chair; Founder

A warm welcome from the founder and first Chair of the Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society.

Is mór an pléisiúir dom na focail seo a scríobh do sheoladh An Emerald Dragon, nuachtlitir ofigiúil an Chumainn Clann Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig. Do gach duine atá á léamh, cibé áit no cibé uair, FÁILTE.

It is a very great pleasure for me to write these words for the launch of *The Emerald Dragon*, the official newsletter of the Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society. To all who are reading them, where or when: WELCOME.

A Clan Society electronic newsletter has been an ambition for many years, so publication of the first edition is a very significant event for the Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society. It adds to the many wonderful achievements we have had over the past three decades and great thanks is due to Tamara and Ryan for taking the initiative and getting the job done.

The launch coincides with a number of new and exciting initiatives that are happening at this time. You will read in these pages of the success of the online vote and the submissions for the Fitzpatrick Scholar Prize and I welcome the opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in these successes. There are other exciting things that are planned and are coming to fruition and it is intended to announce these in this newsletter as things proceed.

You will see that there are some vacant slots in the Administrative Structure and if you would like to fill one of those please let us know. The success of the Clan Society relies on Go To people who will be contributors. People who will say, 'I can do that, and I'll look after it'. Someone who can then go away and get it done. Please don't leave everything to the same group of willing people. Help share the load.

This is your clan newsletter, and the plan is to have a number of editions each year. Its success will be all the more as a result of content contributions and anything you can contribute will add great variety and interest. Everyone can write a page, and most can write an essay or article so please share your Fitzpatrick stories, your research, your successes, your brick walls, your photos and other things that Fitzers will enjoy reading.

Warmest congratulations again to Tamara, Ryan and their contributors who have put this newsletter together and for bringing it to publication. Míle Buíochas. Enjoy. 🏰



2021 Clan Society Election Results

In March 2021, the Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society held its first-ever election to ratify a proposed administrative structure which will hereafter govern its activities. This structure provides the Clan Society with a framework that offers growth and longevity for years to come, provided we have an active and interested worldwide membership who are willing to get involved.

– By Ryan Fitzpatrick, Digital Media Committee Chair



The Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society was first founded in 1993 by Ronan Fitzpatrick, PhD of Tallaght, Dublin, to gather interested researchers and genealogists in their common efforts to understand our Fitzpatrick heritage. Since then, the Clan Society has grown into a worldwide organization which touches many facets of history, culture, genetics, and more. At first, researchers were united in the creation of an email ListServ by 1998, affectionately called "The List", which allowed members to communicate and share information. But as the community grew, it became clear that it had the makings of a much larger movement. Under Ronan's leadership, no less than seven International Gatherings have been successfully organized in Ireland since 2000, attended by hundreds of visitors from around Ireland and abroad. In that same year, esteemed forensic genealogist Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick launched the first-ever Fitzpatrick y-DNA study, which sparked new insights and understandings of our ancestry. The Clan took to social media in 2009 with an official Facebook page, which now has over a thousand participants. The Clan Society's new website launched in late 2018, (www.fitzpatrickssociety.com), which is our home on the internet. (It is our third website since the 90's!) Regional Clan Society Events and Gatherings were held in Upstate New York and Savannah, Georgia, in 2018 and 2019, which allowed members from across North America the opportunity to meet and exchange research even if they couldn't travel to Ireland.

It became increasingly clear however, that the many successes of the Clan Society over the last twenty-five years were no guarantee of its future longevity. Therefore, a discussion was led by Dan Fitzpatrick at the 2018 Portlaoise Gathering to focus on the Society's organization and succession. The decision was made by the attending members to form an Acting Committee of volunteers who would organize an official structure which the whole Society could vote on and ratify. The process of drafting a written proposal was spearheaded by John Fitzpatrick, Ronan Fitzpatrick, and Peter FitzPatrick, - all based in Dublin - who developed several documents which delineated the Society's official goals and proposed administrative structure. To be sure, this was no easy task. With the Clan Society having so many activities and worldwide distribution, the best plan was to state the Society's Aims under a governing Board of trusted, long-time members; then to gather other interested Clan Society volunteers into "Go-To/Advisory Teams" in areas where their own interest were strongest. The proposed documents with named officer candidates was finalized and put to a vote by The List membership in March 2021. The vote passed, and the here are the results:

2021 Board Positions and Officers:

Chairperson:	Ronan Fitzpatrick
Vice Chair:	[Position vacant]
Secretary:	Tamara Endicott-Delafuente
Treasurer:	Dan Fitzpatrick
Membership Committee Chair:	[Position Vacant]
Gatherings Committee Chair:	Dan Fitzpatrick
History & Antiquities Committee Chair:	Andrew Wallace
Library & Archives Committee Chair:	[Position Vacant]
Digital Media Committee Chair:	Ryan Fitzpatrick
DNA Research Committee Chair:	Colleen Fitzpatrick
Genealogy Research Committee Chair:	Steve Zalewski
Fitzpatrick Scholar Committee Chair:	Ronan Fitzpatrick
An Giolla Phádraig / An Tánaiste:	Life-long Honorary Post

2021 Go-To/Advisory Teams:

List Moderator:	Ronan Fitzpatrick
Social Media Moderator:	Ryan Fitzpatrick
Webmaster:	Ryan Fitzpatrick
DNA Advisor:	Colleen Fitzpatrick
Genealogist:	Steve Zalewski, Ronan Fitzpatrick and Andrew Wallace
Historian:	Andrew Wallace, Steve Zalewski and Ronan Fitzpatrick
Herald:	Ryan Fitzpatrick, Ronan Fitzpatrick
Librarian/Archivist:	[Position vacant]
ePublications Editor:	[Position vacant]
Cartographic Advisor:	Peter FitzPatrick
Gatherings Organiser(s):	Ronan Fitzpatrick (International Gatherings, Ireland) Tamara Endicott-Delafuente (USA South) Ryan Fitzpatrick (USA Northeast)

This roster was formally ratified in May, 2021. Opportunity exists for more Clan Society members to fill vacant seats and serve on teams, and indeed, some Clan Society members have already reached out to serve on some of the Go-To/Advisory Teams. Each of the Board members heads a committee and attends monthly meetings. In addition, a lifetime honorary position exists on The Board for An Giolla Phádraig, Chief of his name, Rí Osraidhí or for his deputy, An Giolla Phádraig, Tánaiste. Pending the identification of An Giolla Phádraig, the Board may at its own discretion invite a known descendant of Bryan Fitzpatrick, Lord and First Baron of Upper Ossory to occupy an honorary position on the Board. With regards to both the Board and the 'Go-To'/Advisory Team, there is no special privilege, honour, or status implied by any committee or other round table role. Those involved are registered members of the Clan Society who are willing to share their expertise, advice, and experiences voluntarily to further the aims of the Clan Society and to help other members with their family research. All individuals offer their time and contributions for free on behalf of the Fitzpatrick nation. Many thanks to John, Peter, and Ronan for establishing this help secure our future, and thanks to all who give their time, talents, and efforts into building up the Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society.

If you are a List Member who would like to get more involved, email our Secretary: thefitzpatrickproject@gmail.com 

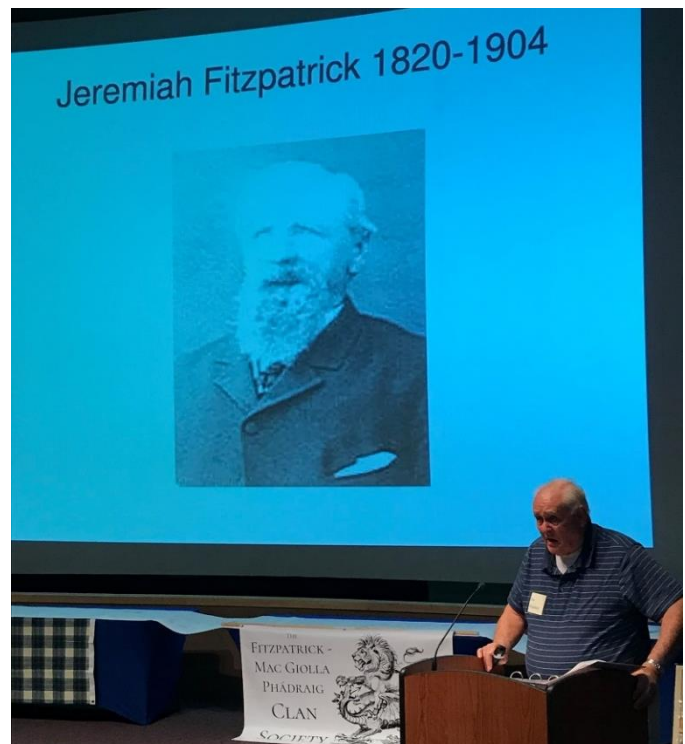
My Humble Beginnings

A short family history.

– By W. Dan Fitzpatrick, Clan Society Treasurer

So many Irish researchers seek to find their lineage back to the Baron and related Fitzpatrick Earls and nobility. Yet it is not they who we seek. No, it is the lowly who sprang from the loins of the sod, who endured pain and hunger on their small holdings, surrounding a stone home full of the richness of many offspring, of human love, warmth, and retold stories.

My family's beginnings were undoubtedly similar. My forebears appear to have been educated as they were able to read and write; and possibly they had some spare change in their pockets. Like so many others, they faced the "Great Hunger" of the mid 1800's that forced a million or more of these low Irish (not the Lords, Earls and nobility) to flee their beloved Ireland. Like so many immigrants, 80% arrived in their new



country through the Port of New York, some staying, some moving westward. New York City was no panacea. (*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.*) Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, and supposed brother William, lingered in the city for a spell (ship records had them arrive in 1847) and it is presumed, though not documented, that they followed the new Erie Canal westward, possibly working for their passage. The overland route was torturous. Routes only recently hacked through primeval forests and over the Eastern mountain ranges.

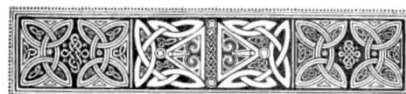
Arriving in the City of Buffalo they found employment on sailing ships as sailors on the Great Lakes. Buffalo was a young and restless town that was at the western reaches of civilization, the jumping off point to the Great West - Michigan, Minnesota, and the Ohio Valley. It was not uncommon to find the dead floating in canals that wandered under the rear of the many brothels and saloons (with convenient trap doors!) in the early 1850's.

The brothers settled there, eventually marrying and establishing homes that proliferated with the cherished roots of the Irish. (Children!) Jeremiah married Katherine Dolan in 1853, daughter of Patrick, and after ten years "on the Lakes" he obtained that commodity so precious to the Irish: LAND! He forsook the life of a sailor (unlike his brother) and became a "Market Gardener" according to City Directories, in what is now Downtown Buffalo. The operation soon grew into a dairy operation with the three sons (a fourth died shortly after birth) becoming milk peddlers on the city's streets. The youngest son, William, determined that milk peddling held no future for the likes of him. Politics was a blooming industry, used by many young men to rise above the laboring class. First, he became a "contractor" bidding on street construction in the growing City. Then bidding on City contracts for trash removal and coal ash removal. This grew into home construction in the Irish First Ward with his sons.

But though successful, this son of hard-working immigrants sought power in the growing City. With the aid of other now prominent Irishmen, he fought his way into the powerful roll of County Democratic Committee Chairman. "*Let the games begin!*" Not long after he grew into a powerbroker for the State Democratic Party. The Irish of the First Ward supported their own, though there was no lack of infighting, which he managed to survive for thirty years! Strangely enough, one of his brothers became the Court Cryer, and the other became Superintendent of Streets! A brother-in-law became a prominent Judge of the City Court! As one newspaper put it, "All in the Family"! William and his wife Clara Hillery (from County Clare) also had a traditional large family, though epidemics and bacterial poisoning took all but three who survived to adulthood. The family had achieved wealth as the Great Depression approached in 1928. With the death of his wife in 1926, Will Fitzpatrick began to retire, turning over his business interests to his three sons. He passed suddenly in 1932.

His sons continued the businesses upon the death of the father. One had achieved a college degree from Cornell University - the first in his family. Using his inheritance, (and some of his brothers!) he acquired a local oil refinery at the start of WWII, accrued significant wealth and became Chairman of the New York State Democratic Party, which backed Truman against New York's Governor Dewey in 1948. Another son who served in WWI, was afflicted with the "Irish Disease", and died in a fiery alcohol related car crash in 1937. The third son, my father, was the youngest, and was the typical "1920's Playboy" of the family. I was the product of the marriage of my father to Dorothy Britting, the first non-Catholic in what had been a been a VERY Irish Catholic family, and she of German-English Methodist descent. My paternal Grandmother's sister never missed a Novena, nor Sunday Mass, and outlived them all!

So it was. I guess you could call it a traditional Irish "rags-to-riches" scenario. A poor immigrant from the Irish Famine whose origin in Ireland is yet unknown, though believed to have come from County Tipperary. As it turns out, I am the only male descendant of Jeremiah Fitzpatrick; his brother William had all daughters except one son who died young. My Irish DNA line is a thin one indeed, a line which I broadened with two sons, who in turn now have two unmarried sons! The line remains thin! Not an unusual story. Indeed, a rather traditional story that could be applied to many in the vast wave of Irish immigrants who flooded the American and Canadian shores during the Great Famine period. So many climbed the social ladder from poverty in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century using the political environment, be it City jobs or City labor force, or were downright Irish politicians! 🏰



The Back Lane Benefactresses of Brigstock

A legacy of Fitzpatrick charity lives on.

– By Ronan Fitzpatrick, Clan Society Chair; Founder

At previous gatherings people have said how much they enjoy the old stories. Well, here's an old story that was born just a few weeks ago. Back when the second edition of *The Descendants of Bryan Fitzpatrick, 1st Baron Upper Ossory* ("The Book") was being put together in 2010, I needed some information from the good people at St. James the Apostle Church at Grafton Underwood in England. The information arrived in a small booklet titled *The Guide* and that was what I was concentrating on. I had cause recently to revisit that delivery and discovered that there were some other photocopies that the sender had included. There is no cover note or letter, so I do not know who the sender was or who to acknowledge. The material is all about the Fitzpatrick Earls of Upper Ossory in England and in the photocopies, there is a mention that "...Ladies Anne and Gertrude Fitzpatrick... demonstrated a dedication to the welfare of the poor and the provision of education in Brigstock." It continues:

The Ladies Fitzpatrick also sponsored and financed a self-improvement scheme offering benefits to those willing to make an effort to improve their lot. This was the Brigstock Independent Club, initiated in 1823, in which the members would be granted at low rent an acre of land on which to grow crops. In addition they provided £200 for the building of cottages for its members. Like Nicholas Latham before them, the Ladies also provided educational opportunities for Brigstock children and in Back Lane can be seen the school building, now a private house, founded by the sisters. On the front of the building are the initials AFP, standing for Anne Fitzpatrick. (see p.51)

The sisters died within a few months of each other in 1841, but their benevolence continued with a gift of £1,000 for a row of cottages for the poor widows of Brigstock. This row, also in Back Lane, is still known to local people as Widows' Row.

Source: "Some significant people in Brigstock's History", in *Hindsight Magazine, Northamptonshire Association for Local History, 2005*.

So, go onto Google Maps to see what might be still standing in Back Lane, Brigstock, Kettering, UK. Check out the quality of the small school house building from some 200 years ago and zoom in to see the plaque on the front of the building with the initials "AFP". Clearly, their legacy still lasts today. 🏰



Images courtesy of Google Maps.

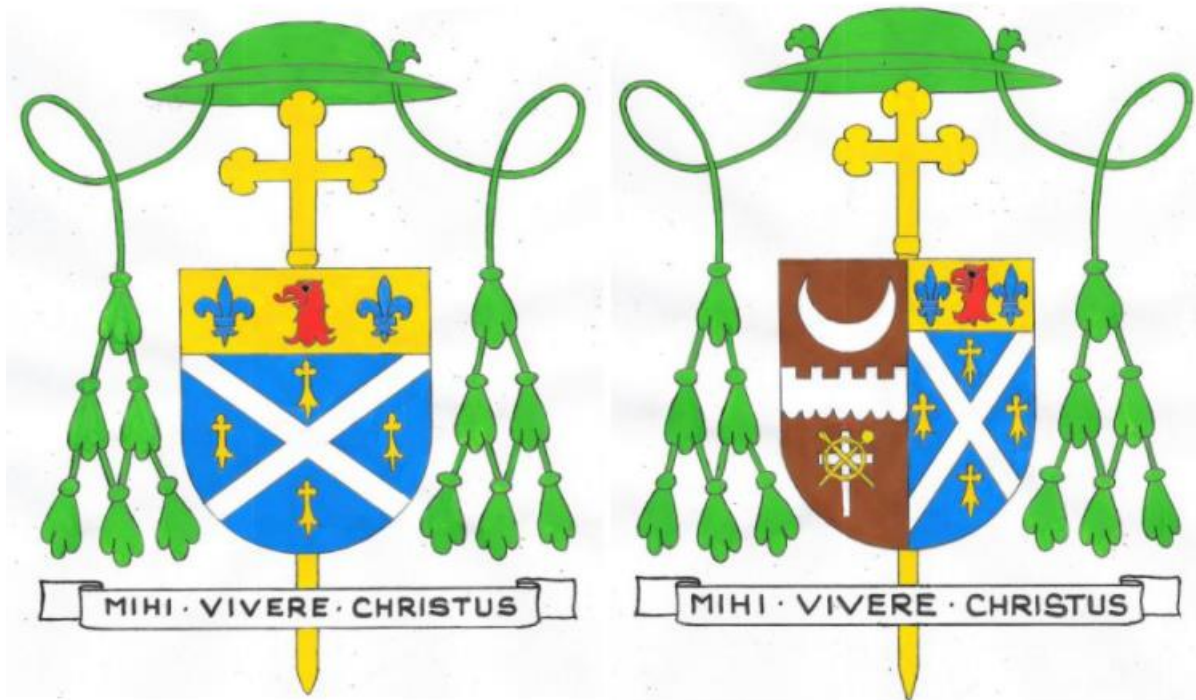
Fitzpatrick Ecclesiastical Heraldry

The arms of two Fitzpatrick bishops.

– By Ryan Fitzpatrick, Clan Society Herald

Most readers will be familiar with the strikingly handsome Fitzpatrick arms (blazon: *Sable, a saltire Argent; in a chief Azure, three fleur-de-lis Or*) which is often informally adopted by all who bear the surname as an identification of clan affiliation. And rightly so; while it is true there is no such thing as “clan arms”, nonetheless, the Irish have an ancient history of corporate clan symbols used by kin-groups and allied families on banners as early as the seventh century. In modern times, the informal display of Fitzpatrick arms serves as a great visual aid to rally our members with the use of symbols. However, many are unaware of the several variations in arms granted to different branches of the clan and individuals. Here, we can examine the arms of two American Roman Catholic Fitzpatrick bishops, noting their unique qualities which set them apart from most other Fitzpatrick arms.

Ecclesiastical arms of Bishop John Joseph Fitzpatrick:



Auxiliary Bishop of Miami

Bishop of Brownsville

Image courtesy Heraldry of the World: www.heraldry-wiki.com.

Blazon: *Azure, a saltire Argent, between four ermine spots Or; in a chief of the last, an eagle's head erased Gules, between two fleur-de-lis of the first; shield ensigned with an episcopal cross Or behind the shield; under a bishop's galero, cords and twelve tassels disposed in three rows of one, two and three, all Vert. On a scroll below the shield the motto: "Mihi Vivere Christus".*

Bishop John Joseph Fitzpatrick (born in Canada on October 12, 1918 – reposed in Texas, July 15, 2006) was an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami (1968–1971) and the third Bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville (1971–1991). He was also the Titular Bishop of Cenae (1968–1971). Here we can see his personal arms (left) and again impaled with the See of Brownsville, Texas. Clearly his arms are based on the arms of the Barons of Upper Ossory, but with different colors and unique charges alluding to his family and baptism. *Heraldry of the World* states:

"The basic design has been retained, but the colors have been changed and two additions have been made to make this interpretation of these Fitzpatrick arms personal to the Bishop. Four ermine tails honor the Pelletier family of the Bishop's mother. In French, *pelletier* means *furrier*.

The eagle is the symbol of St. John the Evangelist, the baptismal patron of Bishop Fitzpatrick. The writer of the Fourth Gospel has been known by this symbol for centuries, because his Gospel rises to the very throne of heaven in proclaiming the Divinity of Christ. For simplicity, the head, rather than the full eagle, is shown on the shield.

The motto of the new Bishop, which expresses briefly an ideal, a program of life, the spirit of the one who selects it is "Mihi Vivere Christus," which translated means "For to me to live is Christ" and is a phrase taken from the Epistle of St Paul to the Philippians (1:21)."

Ecclesiastical arms of Bishop John Bernard Fitzpatrick:

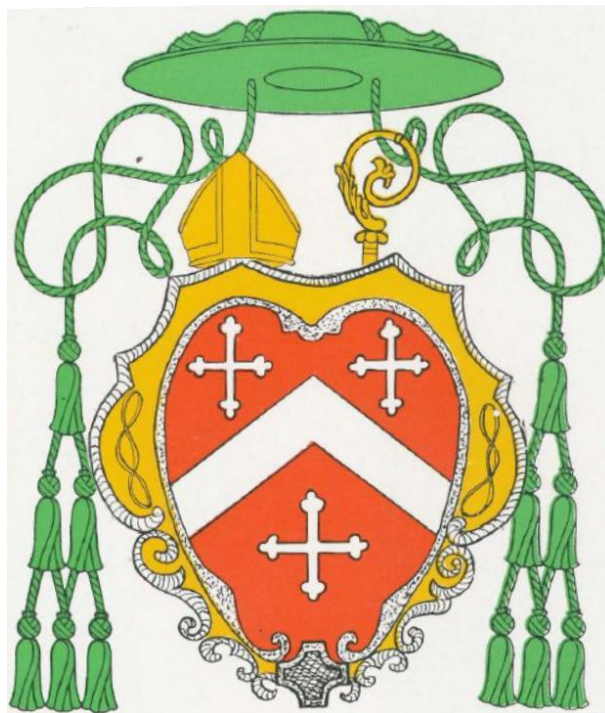
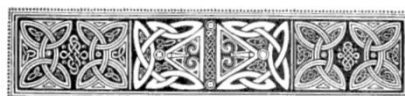


Image courtesy Heraldry of the World: www.heraldry-wiki.com.

Blazon: *Gules, a chevron between three crosses bottony Argent; the shield ensigned with a bishop's mitre and episcopal crozier Or; under a bishop's galero, cords and twelve tassels disposed in three rows of one, two and three, all Vert.*

John Bernard Fitzpatrick, (November 1, 1812 - February 13, 1866) born to immigrant parents from Offaly. He was appointed Titular Bishop of Callipolis and Coadjutor of Boston, Nov. 21, 1843; then served as Bishop of Boston from 1846 until his death in 1866. His arms are very much unlike any other Fitzpatrick arms, and nothing yet is known about their origins, style, or meaning. 🏰



2021 Clan Society Events:

Capital District Scottish Games

Saturday, September 4th, 2021 (US Labor Day Weekend):

The CD Scottish Games are tentatively scheduled for a one-day event at the Altamont Fairgrounds in Altamont, NY, outside of Albany. Ryan Fitzpatrick is planning to host his third Fitzpatrick Clan tent at the Games again where people can gather for discussions and displays of Fitzpatrick history, culture, chiefs, heraldry, flags, maps, tartans, music, and more. Events include watching Scottish heavy athletics, marching in the parade of clans, dancing competitions, food & drink, music, and more. Gates open at 8 am. Fairgrounds require paid entry ticket and parking. Bring your own folding chairs, water bottles, and other creature comforts. Official announcement coming in June. Pictures of previous Games are on the [Gatherings](#) page of our website. Look for official announcement on The List.



For more information, see: <https://scotgames.com/>

2021 Clan Zoom Gathering (October 15th - 16th): Can't get to Ireland in 2021? Don't worry; we have a work-around: The Clan Society is planning its first-ever Zoom Gathering to meet online and share the latest and greatest in Fitzpatrick research. Lectures and presentations will be given from Clan Society members, and we aim to stagger the presentation times for audiences in both the northern and southern hemispheres. Official announcement with presenters and Zoom link will come via The List. Lectures will be recorded for future viewing. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



Don't Tell Your Grandchildren Anything

Some sound advice for passing on family history.

– By Ronan Fitzpatrick, Clan Society Chair; Founder

I'm sure that like me you have met many people down through the years who will always regret that they didn't listen to their grandparents when they wanted to tell them all about their ancestry. The grandparents and other elderly relatives believed that it was incumbent on them to pass on to the next generations what they knew and had experienced. But those next generations can never remember what they were told mainly because they were too young to want to know that stuff. And now in later years it is all repeating itself and those who didn't listen then want to tell their grandchildren everything now. Do they think their grandchildren are any different? Do they think they will want to know that stuff? Certainly not at this time while they are still young with much more exciting lives to live. So, don't merely tell them. (Do tell them.) But also write it down and give it to them! It doesn't matter how you do it. It can be a simple letter, or it can be a family history publication prepared with a suitable genealogy program that can also be distributed. Add pictures, short biographies, and interesting stories. Hopefully they'll keep and treasure it and when the time comes, they can share it with future generations of your family. So, be warned it's not enough to just tell you grandchildren stuff. You need to write it for them too. Then, while you are about that mission you might encourage them to join The List and subscribe to the Facebook page to keep fully informed about all things Fitzpatrick. We can tell you how to join The List and where to find the Facebook Page. It's up to you to do the rest. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

Next Issue / Upcoming:

Stay tuned to the *Emerald Dragon* and on the List for these important announcements:

- Winner of the 2021 Fitzpatrick Society Scholarship Prize on June 11th
- Online publication of submitted scholarly entries
- Details on the Clan Zoom Gathering, 15th - 16th October
- Details on the Fitzpatrick Clan tent at the Capital District Scottish Games, September 4th
- Any future appointments to the Board & Go-To/Advisory Committees

Share Your Story!

We want to hear from you, our Clan Society Members!

If you have an article, story, family history, genealogical query, name of a brick wall ancestor, or other material you wish to contribute to *The Emerald Dragon* newsletter, please submit any text or images to the Editor at:

thefitzpatrickproject@gmail.com Your submissions could be in the next issue of *The Emerald Dragon!**

(*Some editing may be required. Submissions may include images over which you have rights. Any and all submissions for newsletter publication is at the discretion of the editors. The Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society is not responsible for any inaccuracy of submissions, nor liable for any errors, nor to any party, for any reason whatsoever. Newsletters, submitted text, and images will be published on our website: www.fitzpatrickssociety.com)



THE
EMERALD DRAGON