

EMERALD DRAGON

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

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Left to right: Andrew Wallace (Clan Historian), Phil Phelan (owner of Ráthbeagh), & Ronan Fitzpatrick (Clan Society Founder & Chair; holding "The Bell") standing atop Heremon's Ráth in Ráthbeagh, Kilkenny during the Clan Society's 8th International Gathering.

The Emerald Dragon Newsletter

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8th International Fitzpatrick Clan Gathering Accomplished: Kilkenny, 4-6th October 2024!

- By Ryan Fitzpatrick & Ronan Fitzpatrick

The Fitzpatrick Clan descended on Kilkenny City this past October to host its 8th International Gathering. This was a momentous event for the life of the Clan Society: it marked the first International Gathering since the Clan Society celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2023; the previous International Gathering being held in Ireland in 2018 prior to the imposed restrictions of the Covid-19 quarantine. Therefore, it was important as a show of societal strength to flex our muscles and shake off the dust of distance with vigor; to once again see each other face to face and celebrate our progress and recent achievements. Society members traveled from all over Ireland and around the world to meet anew, clink and drink, exchange information, tour ruins, learn more about the Fitzpatrick surname and contribute their own family histories. Some were meeting new relatives discovered only through yDNA matches; many were meeting those who they only knew from the List online; still others were including the Gathering weekend as part of their wider travel itinerary across Ireland and Europe. And adding to the autumn atmosphere, the weekend was set amidst the backdrop of the 130th annual Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship Quarter-finals, when the whole of County Kilkenny –traditionally Ireland's stronghold for the fastest game on grass– was at a fever pitch for the sport.



Friday Gathering:

The event began on Friday, October 4th, as attendees variously arrived at the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel in the city centre. Many happy greetings were exchanged at the front desk in the hotel lobby amidst the busy luggage and buggage as people checked into their weekend lodgings. Others who found lodgings elsewhere in Kilkenny still rendezvoused in the Ormonde's lobby which became the central hub for conversations, drinks, and general relaxion throughout the three-day event. Downstairs, the Anner conference room which was to be our base of operations for the lectures, was tastefully decorated with Fitzpatrick banners, table displays, posters, genealogical charts, flags, books, and all the audio/video equipment needed to accommodate the presenters on Saturday and Sunday mornings. As Friday evening approached, the crowd of attendees



gathered in the dining room for our first meal together. Our Founder and Chair, Ronan Fitzpatrick, PhD, formally commenced the opening of the 8th International Gathering by ringing the Clan Society bell, with a hearty "Fáilte! Tá anáthas orm Fáilte a cuir!"; thanking the attendees for their presence, participation, and contributions. He noted that it was twenty-four years since the first International Gathering event in Portlaoise back in 2000, and a full quarter-century years since the first seeds of the idea were sown in 1999. With great pleasure, Ronan noted that some who attended the first Gathering in 2000 have attended all eight International Gatherings; while others who couldn't attend the first, attended the second or third and have been strong supporting members since. Toasts were made as friends and strangers settled down to dine for an evening BBQ buffet and share their expectations, swapping information on travel plans and reviewing the morrow's agenda. Several members brought books and interesting materials to share after the meal, wasting no time in pursuing genealogical queries and discussions with the wise and knowledgeable. The evening conversations continued far into the early autumn darkness, reclining amidst the lobby couches and dining tables, to the tinkling sounds of whiskey and pints and background chatter of instant friendships.



Saturday Morning Lectures:

After a hearty Irish breakfast in the dining area, the Saturday morning academic lectures began downstairs in the conference room. New arrivals registered outside the lecture hall with John Fitzpatrick and Andrew Wallace manning the doors. Attendees received a handsome information packet in a glossy black folder bearing the Fitzpatrick lion & dragon crest in gold, as well as a Fitzpatrick tartan lanyards printed with the Clan Society's lion and dragon, courtesy of our Society Secretary, Tamara Endicott-Delafuente. Ronan warmed up the crowd with cheerful opening remarks as a slideshow of photos from Fitzpatrick history played on the big screen.



The first presentation was delivered by Clan Society Historian and Genealogist Steve Zalewski who walked attendees through a virtual tour to the latest version of the Fitzpatrick Multimedia Archive (FMA) version 3.0. Steve is a man of powerful projections: his stature and strong voice carried the room as his PowerPoint slides conveyed the visual impact of this free resource, available for download to your home computer or disk drive. The latest v3.0 updates now totals the Fitzpatrick Multimedia Archive at 375 images, including many helpful resources pertaining to the Baron line and several other well-documented cadet branches, such as the Aran, Deerpark, Coolcashin, and Tubberboe lines. A notable feature is the excellent descendancy charts, a feature for which Ronan likened the FMA to a sequel for his book with Steve, "Descendants of Bryan Fitzpatrick". Media relating to different lines have been colorcoded for quick reference. New images, maps, text excerpts, arms, cross referencing, and additional search features

have been added to give any researcher into Fitzpatrick history incredible access to information, names, dates, locations for these lines. To date, this compilation remains the greatest single wealth of Fitzpatrick-related media anywhere in the world, which has been meticulously curated and made freely viewable like never before. It is a veritable museum of visual resources for the Clan. (Note: Some images within the FMA are subject to copyright, with all rights held by their owners. Downloading the FMA does not grant the user automatic copyright. All relevant copyright holder information is viewable within the FMA. For more information and how to download and access the FMA, see the Clan Society's Research page: https://fitzpatricksociety.com/research-2/) Steve poured much effort into creating this unique resource for the Clan Society; feel free to contact him on the email List if you have any questions.



Next up was Mary Bergin Fitzpatrick with her presentation on the Fitzpatricks of Coolcashin and Tubberboe, representing the lineages of her husband Vincent's family, as well as her own ancestral Fitzpatrick connections. Mary has done incredible research on these two Kilkenny lines which carry probable descent from the Brian Mac Gilla Pátraic, the 1st Baron. In her hunt for ancestors, Mary has amassed two compendiums - one for each lineage - of records, photographs, charts, text, and assembled them into book form for their preservation into posterity. Through her herculean efforts, she has documented these Fitzpatricks, bringing both lines into greater light; gaining personal expertise about the nuances of genealogical research in the effort. (For interested researchers, the Coolcashin and Tubberboe Fitzpatrick lineages have been entered into the Fitzpatrick Multimedia Archive (FMA), and any media relating to them are color-coded green and gray, respectively.) yDNA testing has shown a genetic connection between these two lines most likely from the 16th century, and both lines historically held lands in proximity to Cullahill Castle. Mary has good reason to suspect that they descend from Geoffrey Fitzpatrick of Tintore Castle, with further research currently ongoing. A celebrated connection exists between the Tubberboe line and the famous Rev. William

Carrigan, who was a friend of the family during his day. He signed the 1913 will of Michael Fitzpatrick, who also appears in a wedding photo of relatives John Fitzpatrick and Julia Kelly. Mary was joined by many of her and her husband's family also in attendance at the Gathering, who posed for two group photographs at the end of her presentation; one of the Coolcashins and another of the Tubberboes.



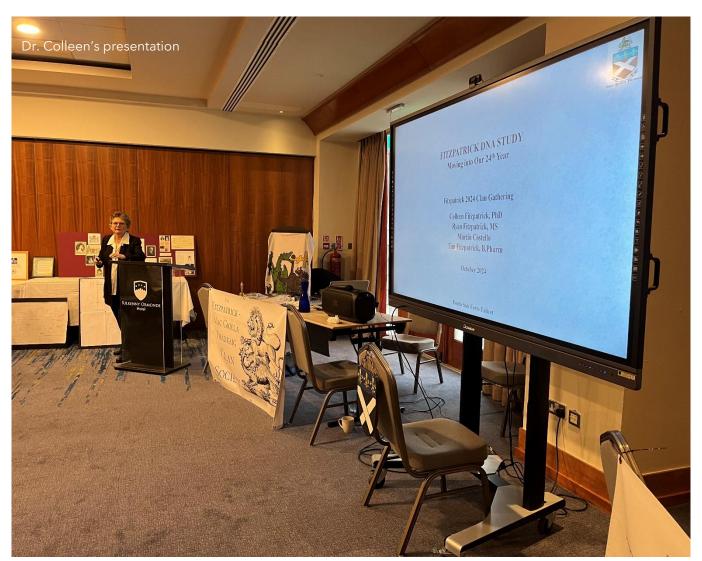
The attendees were then treated to a lecture from the esteemed archaeologist Dr. Cóilín Ó Drisceoil, titled "A Mass Murder of the Mac Giolla Phádraigs in the Twelfth Century? Archaeological Excavations at St. Lachtain's, Freshford". While repair work was being conducted on a sidewalk footpath in front of St. Lachtain's church (COI) in Freshford, Kilkenny, a pair of male skeletons dating from the tenth to twelfth century were unearthed, who each bore the wounds of many deathly cuts especially to the upper parts of the body. These two men appear to have been slain with great ferocity, and the nature of their injuries testify to intense and active combat, likely the result of powerful axe blows and sword cuts. Ó Drisceoil noted that the exorbitant number of devasting wounds were most likely sustained in battle, which was further indicated by the two men sharing a common grave, as historically, brothers in arms who fell in the same battles were often quickly buried together out of haste and necessity. Their radio carbon dating gives a range indicating these men lived ca. AD 900-1150. These dates, combined with their prominent burial position at the western entrance of the church near its magnificent Romanesque arches, raises the prospect that either of these two slain warriors might be members of the Mac Giolla Phádraig clan who fell in combat possibly nearby- hence the need to share a common grave. The kingdom of Osraige was a prominent battleground during the height of the Viking age in Ireland, and many conflicts are recorded in the annals. While the window of time is tight, one other possibility might be that the two warriors were slain at the famous battle of Clashacrow in AD 1170 against the invading forces of Diarmait Mac Murchadha's Leinstermen and their new Norman allies. Donal Mac Giolla Phádraig, king of a divided Osraige, heroically resisted the invading forces of Leinstermen and Normans under the command of Domhnall

Caomhánach and Maurice de Prendergast by defensively plashing the thickly wooded route through Osraige and throwing up earthen ramparts to defend against the Norman cavalry. The battle lasted for three days as the defending Ossorians numbering approximately 2,000 men, held out against a combined Norman/Wexford force of roughly 5,000 opponents. The resolute defenders held firm until the Norman cavalry feigned a retreat on the third day, in apparent capitulation. This induced the defenders out of their redoubts, who sought to give the retreating invaders the final farewell. In a strategic move reminiscent of the same tactic the Normans used against the Anglo-Saxons at the battle of Hastings a century earlier in England, the fleeing Norman cavalry halted their fake retreat, reformed their lines, and counter-attacked the now dislodged and dispersed defenders. The result was a devastating defeat inflicted on an already politically divided Osraige, despite a staunnch and otherwise successful defense; and gave rise to the name of the area of Clashacrow (Clais an Chró: "the Hollow of the Slaughter"). The battle had ramifications for the success of the Normans in Ireland prior to the landing of Henry II at Waterford on Osraig'e border in 1171, bringing the largest ever injection of English forces into Ireland. The identification of the two warriors found at St. Lachtain's as Mac Gilla Pátraics is speculative and remains unsettled for now. Ó Drisceoil noted that the two men were just the top two remains in a burial pit which appeared to have at least 20 human remains; but due to the time and budget constraints, they couldn't excavate the other remains. The archeaology team only examined and preserved the remains in danger from the work on the footpath realignment, and reburied the site. Dr. Cóilín Ó Drisceoil is an archaeologist with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, a former director of Kilkenny Archaeology, and part-time lecturer in local history and archaeology at NUI Maynooth.



Next up was Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick, who, along with Tim Fitzpatrick after her, presented on various aspects of the Fitzpatrick yDNA study in its 24th year. In classic didactic style, she held the audience rapt with digestable information, turning the complex world of DNA into something relatable, drawing meaning out from the data. An indepth overview of the origins and progress of the study was delivered, and the fruitful results it has since yielded over the past quarter-century. After reviewing the original goals of the study when it first began, Dr. Colleen noted the various haplogroups initially established and the significant switchover from originally discerning genetic relationships

from star-clustering STR philogenetic trees (cladograms), over to top-down block-branching SNP markers, and the improved understanding which they have provided. As the study has grown, the original naming conventions of our various yDNA groups have changed to more accurately reflect those involved; yet the main haplogroups remained generally the same, even as they grew in size and relationships were further clarified through additional testers and upgrading older test kits to the BigY level. Colleen not only dished out the history of the Project from its inception, she also spoke about how the efforts to understand each haplogroup have taken different courses. The largest groups of Fitzpatricks hail from the Kilkenny/Laois/Tipperary (Ossory) region, and the Cavan/Leitrim areas; followed by a significant population of Fitzpatricks from Co. Cork who hold genetic links with the O'Leary clan. About a quarter of the testers are from smaller groups of lineages which show few connections: despite being the first Fitzpatrick tester, Dr. Colleen's own brother still has not found another Fitzpatrick connection in nearly a quarter-century since the project first began. Such is the way the yDNA cookie crumbles. Time was running short, so just as Tim Fitzpatrick was set to take the stage to present further on the project, it was decided to break for lunch and tours, and lead off with him in the morning. Bagged lunches for those going on the afternoon excursions were served, and a major portion of the group mobilized onto Martley's coach bus to begin the outdoor tour of Fitzpatrick sites.



Saturday Afternoon Tours:

Those attendees intrepid enough to brave the autumn Irish drear filed onto Martley's charter bus, our great chariot for the afternoon Fitzpatrick site tours. The bulking bus nimbly navigated every backcountry turn and bouncing hill thanks to our deft driver. Motion sickness aside, we went forth north; first briefly to Errill to pay our respects to the <u>Ballagharahin Wayside Cross</u> and St. Keiran's Church where the low gray clouds laid a dramatic backdrop to these roadside monuments of stone. We then pressed further north to Ballaghmore Castle, the only habitable Fitzpatrick

fortress, rehabilitated and maintained by the dignified presence of Grace Pym and her partner Kevin, who run the fortress as a rentable guesthouse. The brooding clouds pregnant with heavy rain broke water upon our arrival at Ballaghmore, with its stone sheila-na-gig carving high below the battlements. Like an invading force, our troop charged off the bus and stormed the castle door; fending off the attacking raindrops, seeking shelter, protection, and any available water closets so that both tops and bottoms remained dry enough.





We toured the castle in two parties, each with Grace & Kevin giving us a lively history of the structure (one of the oldest castles in Laois), and its restoration process. Historically, Ballaghmore was but one key castle in a defensive ring of about twenty Fitzpatrick fortifications which encircled Upper Ossory. In his autobiography "Ego", the 2nd Lord Castletown noted that each such tower house had a place atop the battlements to light a signal fire, visible to sentries at the neighboring castle, who would in turn light their own beacons to assemble the fighting clansmen at a predetermined rally site and march out. Our time at Ballaghmore was fleeting, the clock compelling us to sally forth back south to the Ormonde Kilkenny hotel in time for the evening banquet. We fondly parted from Grace & Kevin, fortified with warmth against the darkening autumn chill, and charged through the rain to board back on our chariot bus. Departing daylight and impending dinner meant skipping Aghaboe Abbey- a dryer decision given Aghaboe's marked lack of roof.

Saturday Evening Banquet:

Back at the Ormonde in time for the banquet, Clan Society members exchanged their damp excursion garb for finer evening fashions, befitting a Fitzpatrick banquet. Supper included cream-of-tomato and basil soup, vol au vent, stuffed chicken, cod fillet, with apple crumble or lemon cheesecake for dessert, and choice of coffee, tea, ale, or spirit. A brief prayer to the Most Holy Trinity was offered by officer Ryan Fitzpatrick, an Orthodox subdeacon, before the meal, during which our founder and Chair, Ronan Fitzpatrick addressed the attendees with his gilded gift of gab. He thanked the organizers of the event; everyone who serves as a Clan Society Officer on the Gatherings Committee, as well as those not on the Committee but who are local to events, and all who have played a positive role. Many

members helped achieve this Gathering in different ways: some organising with the hotel, creating the publications, crafting the weekend schedule and arranging the coach tours, some donating materials for the displays, others tracking registration, setting up the materials, and some donating prizes for the banquet's gift raffle. He gave an especially warm thanks to those who were giving of their time to prepare their presentations. The presentations and the discussions that they generate are the lifeblood of what we do: they present new perspectives, get us thinking, and spark new research in a variety of directions.



Noting the Clan Society's 30th anniversary in 2023, Ronan emphasized the substantial work of the members and how important it was for the Clan Society to exist. It is here, together with our powers combined, that we can all achieve our shared and individual goals, seeking and lending helping hands to the questions of our ancestry and genealogy, by constantly rekindling the bonds of clanship even in our modern world. Here within the larger cohort of Fitzpatricks united, we can better hope to find connections, kin, and kindred spirits. It's the Clan Society members who are willing to contribute and give of their time and efforts, that we can progress and work with each other, rather than dividing and breaking away into smaller disassociations. We may not always find our ancestral answers instantaneously, and the road may often be years-long, difficult, and at times obscure; yet we may find companions along the way who share the same hope and love for the surname as we. Praising the collective brain trust of the Clan Society, Ronan rained praise on the accomplishments of our members, who for three decades now have built up the internal quality of the Clan Society and equipped it with a wonderful array of resources, and freely available information. As the Clan Society first began online as an email exchange of interested persons, our ListServ continues to serve us well in unifying members around the world who can tap into the collective knowledge of our contributing members. Our handsome website is one of the better clan vehicles which faces outward to the world, viewed by hundreds of thousands of interested visitors each year. There, we record our photographic archive of past Gatherings, and other intellectual property. Our Emerald Dragon newsletter carries stories of interest to our readers, with the polish of a proper magazine. The Fitzpatrick Multimedia Archive and Collection of Fitzpatrick Research are high-value

academic resources for researchers found nowhere else, free to all. Our body of interested Go-To Advisory Committees freely avail themselves and their valuable time for solidly informed perspectives on a range of relevant topics, including history, genealogy, heraldry, and yDNA genetic analysis. He also extended his thanks to our hosts at the tour stops: Grace Pym at Ballaghmore Castle; Nancy Roberts Phelan at Cullahill Castle, and Philomena Phelan at Hermon's Rath. But the most precious and esteemed thanks was reserved for the long-suffering spouses of the Clan Society officers: Geraldine, Nancy, Melissa, Natalia, Marie, David, and Rachel; who have been putting up with our Fitzpatrick obsessions for many, many years. He said:

"We now have a community of experts on Fitzpatrick History, Heritage, Culture and Tradition; a worldwide community of Fitzpatricks who are sharing their family stories, genealogies, and DNA; we've published books & archives; we have a history of many successful and memorable Clan Gatherings; most importantly, we have a safe & secure home on the internet (with a website that doesn't harvest cookies nor pester you with adverts); we have a mailing list (for 26 years!) with a very strong sense of courtesy and respect for everyone; two Facebook pages with thousands of Fitzpatricks; a newsletter where all are welcome to publist their own research and stories; and a community around the world which has thrived. This has been a golden era, and my earnest wish is that a new generation of researchers will continue for another 30 years."



A regular feature of every Clan Banquet is a raffle, where attendees this year won prizes of books and other Fitzpatrick-related items as dessert was served. However, we were treated to a new activity this evening: members agreed to

participate in reading excerpts from James Joyce's most famous work *Ulysses*. Clan members who were brave and willing each took turns reading aloud from their seats in a go-round from table to table, which offered a nice literary touch to the evening. We were delighted to witness some of the talent displayed by the readers, some of who truly have a flair for the dramatic, and read exceptionally well. Various toasts and applause were given, followed by group photos of new and old friends, many of whom were attired in the handsome Fitzpatrick dress tartan.



Sunday Morning Lectures:

The second day's event started fresh with Tim Fitzpatrick's postponed lecture on yDNA continued from the previous day. Tim explained the shift in genetic testing from STR data when the study first began, over to SNP data which is now used in Next Generation yDNA testing, with tests such as FTDNA's BigY 700. Tim noted the significance of the Fitzpatricks who hail from the Ossory region showing close paternal relations with the O'Brennans/Branans of Idough in Co. Kilkenny, as well as the Costigan sept of Upper Ossory; all three share a very rare series of genetic SNP markers which are highly distinct genetic signature borne uniquely by the ancient Dál Birn lineage. This fact positively links all three kindreds together, which is strongly corroborated by known historical sources and genealogies. Only one man historically unites all three lineages as a most recent common ancestor (MRCA), which would be none other than king Cerball mac Dúnlainge, Rí Osraige, who reigned from AD 842-888. This triangulation of three surnames from a known historical figure which strongly corroborate with the genetic data and the aging of the SNP trees this timeframe, is what Tim has termed "The Cerball Nexus." Few clans are able to show such clear connection between the historical record, genealogical tracts, and modern genetic evidence, and the Fitzpatrick genetic signal is incredibly rare: recently, Tim, Colleen, and Martin Costello have identified a series of genetic markers which frame out an Ossorian modal haplotype which clearly corresponds to the Dál Birn. But as much as the historical record anticipates this, there have been some surprises along the way. Some small clusters of surnames, such as Dalton and Fitzgerald which do not match the mainline haplogroups in their own respective studies have been unexpected additions to the project, having no prior genealogical texts which mention them; while other anticipated names with textual precedent, such as O'Dunphy and O'Carroll remain elusive. Nonetheless, the yDNA results have very strongly corroborated the known traditional Gaelic genealogies, which have been further bolstered by geographic and historical studies.

Andrew Wallace, the Clan Society's resident historian and propritor of Granston Manor -seat of the last recognized Fitzpatrick Chief, the 2nd Lord Castletown- took the podium next to give a two-fold presentation: firstly on

"Exploring the Unique Aspects of Irish Church Records and How to Exploit Them to Benefit Your Research", and secondly on "Fitzpatricks: Conquered or Conquerors?" Andrew's phenomenal first-hand personal knowledge and decades-long working experience as a lay researcher was on display in full force here, walking the group through the dizzying byzantine labirynth of Irish church (both Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland) and civil records; showing our group how to leave no stone unturned. (Or no stone unread, in the case of old gravestones which may be hard to decipher.) Several attendees were using their trip to Ireland to pursue family history research after the Gathering, where Andrew's knowledge and helpful explanations could be applied immediately. As the proprietor of Granstown, Andrew is our seanchaidhe regarding not only the lore of the recent Castletown lords, but also of the origins of Fitzpatricks in general, whose history and genealogy extends back through the mists of time, connected into the legendary Milesian Conquest through their ancestor Héremón, king of Ireland whose grave we would visit later that day, just a few miles from the hotel. Andrew related the legendary history of the Gaels, through the Milesians to the Irish to the Scots, but more on that below.

The final speaking position of Sunday then came to Ronan, who made all the attendees aware of the encouraging growth of the Clan Society, walking us through all the major projects currently ongoing, as well as a small note on the planning and preparations which went into the event, but encouraging members to seek ways to involve themselves more so that the next thirty years will see continued achievements for the Fitzpatrick Nation. Ronan noted that the Clan Society seeks trusted members who:

- 1. Are willing to serve on the Committee for one or two years
- 2. Possess helpful skills and might take on some of the workload that otherwise needs funding
- 3. Carry knowledge of any aspect of Fitzpatrick genealogy, history, DNA, heritage, etc. anywhere in the world

No society runs for free, and costs exist despite the fact that we have thus far charged no dues or duties for our members. All contributions from the officers and members have so far been pro bono: the lanyards & folders for the event; flags & banners; all the donated hours to plan, organize, and host events; to write documents, papers, books, compile archives; lend expertise, and, all freely contributed and shared for the good of the Clan Society. Naturally, there are expenditures for running the excellent website, the past Scholar's Prizes, event registrations, etc. The past survey results which members returned said nearly all Clan Society members were in favor of a small annual dues fee to help contribute to the Society's maintenance and ongoing activities. We seek to expand to offer more lectures, local and regional Gatherings, and host more Zoom talks online. Officer and Gathering organizer John Fitzpatrick stood and gave an short but sweet closing for the lectures, and after some brief Q&A, members prepared for lunch, followed by the afternoon's expeditions across the countryside via our tour bus. Ronan rang the Clan Society Bell, bringing the lectures to an offical close and the clan moved into action: most prepared for the afternoon tours, while others who were departing for the day said their farewells. Some exchanged gifts brought for visiting clan members, and took photos to mark the event as the crowd shuffled and admired the many Fitzpatrick table displays. Still others sought continued conversation at the bar or sought a restaurant or pub to catch the latest news on the hurling teams.



Sunday Afternoon Tours:

Unlike the day before, the sun was brightly shining on Sunday as we drove to Rathbeagh, Kilkenny to see Héremón's Ráth, undoubtly one of the most ancient sites in Ireland. It's name stems from the fact that it's a ráth- an ancient fortified, circular earthen enclosure for the protection both people and cattle; such sites are ubiquitous across Ireland. Yet Rathbeagh is also the traditional burial place of Héremón, the first High King of Ireland, which makes it an outstanding site of national cultural importance- and especially to the Fitzpatrick clan, who are numbered among his many descendants. Thus, his ráth, his fortification is simultaneously his grave; his residence; his enclosure. For those unacquainted with the ancient Irish Milesian legends where Héremón first appears, we find them in the Lebor Gabála Érenn (*"The Book of Ireland's Taking"*; known in English as *"The Book of Invasions"*) which tells of Ireland being conquered and settled by six successive waves of invaders: the people of Cessair, the wandering people of Partholón, the people of Nemed, the Fir Bolg, the magical Tuatha Dé Danann, and lastly, the valiant Milesian Gaels from northern Spain whose culture dominated Ireland and the highlands of Scotland. In the tradition, the first four groups were successively wiped out or forced to abandon control of the island; however, the fifth group - Tuatha Dé Danann- were driven underground by the sixth and final group: the victorious Gaels. Héremón was the son of Míl Espáine (hence the name "Milesians") by his Egyptian wife Scotia, daughter of Pharoah (and origin of the ethnic names Scoti, and later Scotland). According to the legend, Héremón with his eight princely brothers and their followers in Spain launched an invasion of Ireland to conquer it from the Tuatha Dé Danann. During their hazzardous landing, five of the princely brothers perished at sea, their fleets being plauged by the magical storms of the otherworldly defenders; thus leaving only ships commanded by brothers Héber Finn, Héremón, Armigen (who served as his brothers' druid and poet) and their nephew Héber Donn, son of their brother Ir, lost in the storms. They defeated the Tuatha Dé Danann in the Battle of Tailtiu where Héber Donn was killed, and thus the kingship of all Ireland was divided between Héremón in the north and his younger brother Héber Finn in the south. A year after the battle of Tara, Éber Finn became unhappy with his half, fought a battle with his brother Héremón, and was killed. Héremón then became sole ruler of Ireland and built his



The semi-legendary Milesians invasion and conquest of Ireland: an echo hearkening back to a Neolithic/Bronze age Bell Beaker past.

capital at Ráth Oinn (later site of Rathdown Castle, on the east coast near modern Greystones), and divided Ireland to appointed local kings. He ruled for fourteen to seventeen further years, after which he died at Airgetros, in Kilkenny and was buried in Ráthbeag; being succeeded by his sons Muimne, Luigne and Laigne, ruling jointly. Despite modern historians regarding these figures as semi-legendary, these names were believed by medieval scribes and early modern Irish genealogists as the ancient progenitors of many Irish clans, and therefore were reconciled to historical dating by various compilers: Geoffrey Keating dates his reign from 1287 to 1272 BC, while the Four Masters say from 1700 to 1684 BC. He is listed as an ancestor of a great many clans of Ireland and Scotland, including the Fitzpatricks.



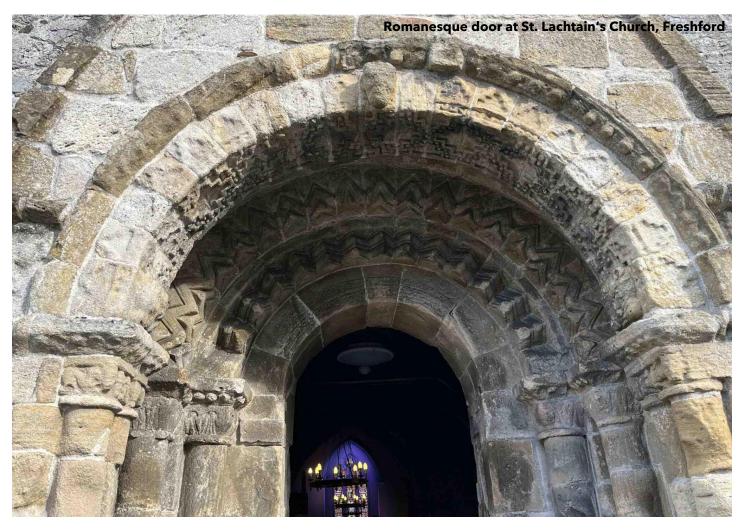
When our large bus maneouvred down the little country lanes to arrive at Ráthbeagh, owner Phil (Philomena) Phelan (featured on the cover) greeted us warmly with apples, cheese, and sweet mead. After a brief history of the site, she led us through the field to the rath. The visitors marched up through the old ramparts of the fort, grown thick with blackberry briars and hawthorn. Atop Héremón's Ráth, not only did we have a commanding view of the region, but we



were treated to some nice steel drum music as we took in the scenery. Before leaving, our group possed for a photo with the Fitzpatrick banner. Phil Phelan's barn had an excerpt of the *Song of Amergin* painted upon it, citing some of the words Armigen sung when he was the first to put his foot on land, when he first stood on the shore of Ireland:

"I am the wind on the sea;
I am the wave of the sea;
I am the bull of seven battles;
I am the hawk on the cliff
I am a flash from the sun;
I am the most beautiful of plants;
I am a strong wild boar;
I am a salmon in the water;
I am a lake in the plain;
I am the word of knowledge;
I am the head of the spear in battle;
I am the god that puts fire in the head;
Who spreads light in the gathering on the hills?
Who can tell the place where the sun rests?"

Archeologists Coilin Ó Drisceoil and his late wife Emma Devine previously recorded preliminary investigations into Héremón's Ráth circa 2009, but the site's mysteries remain encapsulated in the mists of time and legend. Visiting it was a tremendous experience which transported our tour group to the very dawning of Irish culture.



Our next stop launched us two millennia forwards in time to medieval Christian Ireland, arriving at St. Lachtain's Church in Freshford. For this visitation, we had Mary & Vincent Fitzpatrick to thank, who are actively involved members of <u>lonad Lachtaín Church</u>, <u>Arts and Heritage Centre</u>. Right outside was the site where Ó Drisceoil's team excavated the two slain warriors in his lecture the previous day. St. Lactain's Church stands out from the mundane architecture around it mainly on account of its gorgeous Hiberno-Romanesque doorway, which is the oldest surviving portion of the building. St. Lachtain himself hailed from a distinguished 6th century Munster family in Muskerry, Co Cork. When the future saint was 14 years old, he traveled from Munster to Saint Comgall's new abbey in Bangor, Co. Down and became a disciple of St.Molua. After completing his monastic training, he was sent out to found churches, including Achadh Úr ("Fresh Field") or Freshford, Co. Kilkenny ca. AD 570, during the period when Osraige's throne was in the hands of a series of Munster Corcu Loigde kings. The saint reposed in AD 622 and his right arm, the hand of blessing, was kept as a holy relic in Cork for centuries afterwards. A magnificent shrine was exquisitely crafted there ca. AD 1118-21 as a reliquary for his arm. While the saint's arm is now lost, the arm-shaped reliquary case has survived down to today as one of the finest examples of medieval Irish metalwork. His church in Freshford was burnt by Vikings in AD 836, in the decade prior to the reign of king Cearbhall; but the monastery was rebuilt and thrived; its repeated appearance in the annals testifies to its importance. The church's Hiberno-Romanesque doorway & porch, adjacent to where Cóilín Ó Drisceoil excavated the two slain warriors from Saturday's morning lecture, dates from about AD 1100. The doorway is cut from sandstone and is highly ornate, showing a history of continuous church life. Much of the decoration is weathered, but the archway over the porch bears an inscription in Old Irish which translates into English as:

"A prayer for Niamh, daughter of Corc, and for Mathgamhan Ó Chearmaic for whom this church was made.

A prayer for Gille Mocholmoc Ó Chearmaic for whom this church was made.

A prayer for Gille Mocholmoc Ó Ceannucain who made it."

From this, we can glimpse the ancient prayer life of the church, its parishioners, its clergy and builders, and how being close to the doors of the church was seen as advantageous; whether one's name was inscribed thereon, or body was buried therein, or if one was simply passing eastward through this portal into an ancient holy space. The remainder of the present church was built in 1731 for the Church of Ireland. Our group toured the church, its museum and gift shop, and headed back on the Great White Chariot to drive back to the present age, and thence on to Aghmacart in Co. Laois.



Shrine of St. Lachtain's Arm

Along the way, with an Irish sun bursting through amidst Irish clouds, we saw one of the most Irish scenes beholden to Irish eyes: a massive Heaven-to-earth rainbow salient across the Irish sky, every colour breaking over the cliche forty shades of green in the landscape. (With a wind turbine spinning in the background, no less.) The scene was breathtaking enough that the bus driver hit the brakes and allowed us to exit the vehicle simply to gaze upon the natural majesty, so fleeting as it was with the shifting atmosphere. It was a moment's pause to stop, breathe, and absorb the gentle beauty that is Ireland.



We next rode on to Aghmacart and its church graveyard which is the burial grounds to a significant number of Fitzpatricks including Finghín Mac Giolla Phádraig, 3rd Baron Upper Ossory, and his son Teige, the 4th Baron. Vincent and Mary (Bergin) Fitzpatrick's own family connections are also buried here. The central focus of the

graveyard is the large concrete burial vault, inscribed with the request: "Pray for the souls of the Fitzpatrick family interred in this vault."

It was a short stop on our way to Cullahill Castle, where our Martley's bus driver demonstrated his masterful coach handling skills along the narrow country roads amidst the hedgerows and oncoming afternoon traffic.







Our final stop on the tours was at the once-formidable five-storey fortification which was formerly the seat of the Upper Ossory chiefs. Built circa 1425, now a ruin canonaded by Cromwellian troops in 1650, it stands with a quiet dignity as a testament to the old Gaelic order. (Also, a testament to the devastating impact that modern cannon artillery had upon medieval castle architechture.) The fortification consists of the castle proper, with an adjoining circular enclosure wall which once housed various shops, craft houses, stables, and other work spaces necessary for the good functioning of the occupants. Like the Fitzpatrick clan's Ballaghmore Castle, Cullahill also has a well-preserved sheilana-gig sculpture on its exterior. Despite the violence it endured and the weathering of the past four centuries, Cullahill still looms large, and holds strong local cultural and historical significance, heavy with further preservation and research potential. It was an occasion for another great Fitzpatrick photo, showing the Clan Society's modern connection with the built-environment of the past. The property is privately owned by Nancy Roberts Phelan, who lives in the adjacent beautifully thatched cottage and is highly regarded for her level of local historical knowledge about the castle. Our arrival to Cullahill was met with warm refreshments to stave off the autumn chill: hot coffee, tea, chocolate drinks, and light fare for the guests. In return, the Clan Society's member Catherine Fitzpatrick presented Mrs. Phelan with flowers to show our appreciation for her many years of hospitality to us as honoured guests. Mrs. Phelan and the Clan Society officers were photographed and mingled with others who were there to show their support. As the evening drew near, Clan Society officer John Fitzpatrick and the editor duly noted the centuries of attack and destruction which the Clann Giolla Phádraig had to endure, and how important it is to recount the history of the clan, its people, and to not lose even this. In the golden light of a setting sun, our tour group thanked Mrs. Nancy Phelan and with Ronan's ringing of the bell, we returned onto our chariot tour bus to return to the Ormonde Kilkenny hotel, where guests would break into smaller groups for dinner and final farewells for the weekend.









THE EMERALD DRAGON



Clan Society officer Andrew Wallace holding an iron cannonball at Cullahill Castle.



Thus concluded the Fitzpatrick-Mac Giolla Phadraig Clan Society's 8th International Gathering. Attendees lingered in the Kilkenny Ormonde hotel for dinner and touring through the week; others sought local fare, or embarked on the next leg of their journeys. Some were heading to other regions around Ireland where their own family histories were grounded; others were flying out of Ireland to either the UK, Europe, or the US. But all shared in the camaraderie and clanship which this group fosters and we look forward to the next International Gathering. A special thank you to all who were involved in the event's planning and execution, and thanks to all who attended. We look forwards to seeing you again and hearing more of your Fitzpatrick story.

If you would like to get more involved with the Clan Society and its events around the world, please reach out via our email List.



Cuimhne Shíoraí (Memory Eternal) Preserving the memory of the departed.

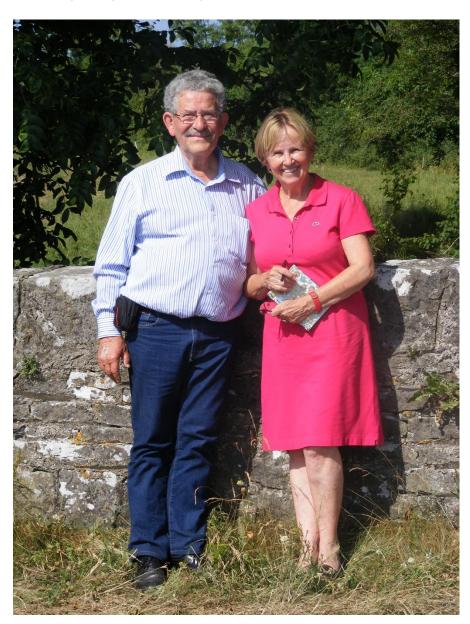
Anyone wishing to commemorate a person or loved one Fthirmay email text details & photos to the Editor via the List; entries need not be recent, and can include general remembrance, anniversaries, or significant memorials. The Clan Society may note the repose of any bearers of the surname, or related surnames, significant persons, whether Society members or not. May God grant rest and eternal memory to all named herein, in a place of verdure, and comfort their families in their grief. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam.

Nicole Vigouroux

Last New Year's Eve, Nicole Vigouroux left us following a long illness bravely borne.

Nicole was a long-standing member of the Clan Society and she was instrumental in persuading Andrew Wallace to get involved. In 2010, Nicole, together with with her dear husband Joël and some of her cousins called to Granston Manor as they thought their ancestors may have lived here. Andrew had done much research into Granston Manor and it's occupants over the years but not into the extended Fitzpatrick family. During the next few years they both researched various aspects of Nicole's lineage and ascertained that her people had lived just across the road from here in Court, Grantstown, some of them being buried in the adjacent Bordwell Graveyard. Nicole and her husband Joël became very dear friends of Andrew Wallace and in 2013 they stayed with him before the Gathering in Kilkenny. This photograph of Nicole & Joël was taken at Templequain, Co. Laois, during that visit, at which time Nicole announced that she had never felt more "at home". Though I only told her afterwards, Templequain was the birthplace of her 4x great grandmother, Grace Fitzpatrick neé Brophy, in 1773.

To quote Joël: "The affection, the love that she gave us will no longer be, but cannot be forgotten. She remains deep in our hearts. I think that from up there, she will continue to help us and love us."



To Joël, her children and grandchildren and her extended family, deepest sympathy on your loss. May her gentle soul forever rest in peace.

Commander John J. Fitzpatrick

Our sincere condolences to Clan Society member Chris FitzPatrick, Sr. on the loss of his father. The end of an Era: The US Navy's last Airship pilot and world record holder is gone. Born on 11 February 1936 in the Hudson (NY) hospital to John H and Mabel (Kelly) Fitzpatrick, John Joseph Fitzpatrick, fondly known by his many friends as "Montana Jack", launched on his final flight on December 9th, 2024. His first twelve years were spent in Valatie, New York; followed by the next six in East Riverdale, Maryland.

At 18, he joined the U.S. Navy. He completed Electronic Technician School and did a short stint at the Naval Small Craft Facility in Annapolis, Maryland. He began Flight Training in 1956, Airship Training in 1957, and was assigned to Airship Squadrons 2 and 3 in Brunswick GA and Lakehurst NJ. He was a crew member on a Navy Airship that set a world's record for un-refueled operational flight. He then completed a tour of duty in Attack Squadron 23, deploying aboard the U.S.S Midway, where he qualified as OOD underway. He attended Air Intelligence Officer School and completed a tour at the Naval Intelligence Center in Washington,



D.C. He then transferred to the Training and Administration of the Naval Reserve (TAR) program and was transferred to Naval Air Station (NAS) Willow Grove, PA. His last tour was at the Naval Air Reserve Training Unit at NAS Norfolk, VA where he participated in Operation Homecoming - the debriefing of Navy POW's from Vietnam. While at NARTU Norfolk, as the Naval Intelligence Command Mid Atlantic Representative, he was promoted to Commander and retired from Naval service in 1974. He married Judith Yawn in 1959. They were married over 18 years and had 7 children: Sean (Laurie) of Lawrenceville GA; Kathleen of Olympia WA; Captain (retired) USN, Patrick (Janet) of Bigfork, MT; Michael of Missoula MT, Christopher (Andrea) of Lawrenceville GA, Kerry (Sarah) of Lawrenceville GA and Thomas (Kelly) of St. Petersburg FL. He held a B.S. with Honors from LaSalle University in Philadelphia.

After retirement, Fitzpatrick moved to his dream location of Missoula MT. In all, he lived in 15 different states. But he always returned to Montana, "The Last Best Place." He met Eileen Vail in Missoula in 1981, and they married after a brief courtship. Eileen had 8 children of her own: Ron (Sheri) of Oakland CA, Kati (Mohammad) of Surrey BC, Canada; Terye (Greg) of Lolo MT, Tim (Henrietta) of Dunlap TN; Tom (Khwan) of Ban Chang Rayong, Thailand; Peggy (Bill) of Valley Springs CA; Jim (Corky) of Oberarnbach, Germany; and Mary of Melbourne, Australia. They both sort of adopted one another's kids, although they were mostly all grown up and had left home by then. When they met, Jack and Eileen had both just found the Lord. Their marriage of 43 years has been one of discovering the Lord and constantly learning more about Him. They spent five of their most important years at the Christian Service Center in St. Petersburg where a wonderful family of committed Christian believers shared their lives and a treasure trove of teachings about Jesus, His kingdom and His written word with them. Those years strengthened the bonds of their marriage and were the beginning of spiritual growth. He started 8 different businesses over the years. Two survive to this day: "Lord and Jackson Locksmiths", and "The Dwelling Place" of Missoula.

His life was one of discovery, first exploring the woods of upstate New York in which he spent many hours just roaming about and learning. Then he discovered the library which had the same effect on him. Then it was learning about anything and everything. He discovered music and singing. Each new thing was a thrill and made him even more eager to learn. He also discovered the joy of barbershop singing and joined the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA) in 1967. The friends he met though this beautiful artform number in the thousands - and he knew them all by name. At 81 years old, he founded a new barbershop society, with almost 2000 members in three countries. Fitzpatrick was preceded in death by his parents,

his brother William, and a myriad of good friends. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 43 years, Eileen; their wonderful family, which includes 15 children, 36 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild; as well as friends all over the world–particularly Jim Lockwood, Mike Parrott, and Paul Cohen. And he sends blessings and thanks to Sue Monroe for showing him the righteous path to eternal life. He wishes with his dying breath that everyone will call upon that same Lord Jesus Christ and surrender their lives to Him–a very small price to pay for eternal life.

Norma (Fitzpatrick) England

Sincere condolences to long-time Clan Society member Sue England on the passing of her dear mother, Norma England (née Fitzpatrick), of Mudgee, New South Wales, Australia.

Born in Mudgee, New South Wales, Norma worked as a sales assistant in the grocery section of Kelletts, a department store in town. In April 1943, she enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) and was mustered as a clerk. Norma completed her 'Rookies' in Bradfield Park in Sydney. When the recruits first arrived, they were handed empty hessian bags that they had to fill with straw, and that became their bed for 5 weeks. After her training, Norma was placed at the 2nd Stores Depot at Waterloo in the Accounts Department and also worked in accounts at the Stores Depot office in the Sydney CBD where she was responsible for supplying uniforms and other essentials to the servicemen and women. While in the WAAAF, Norma became a talented competitive swimmer, representing the Stores Depot, and also played cricket and hockey. Norma was honourably discharged from the WAAAF in January 1947. She worked in sales at the local news agency before marrying Kevin England, who had been a leading aircraftman in the Royal Australian Air Force. Norma and Kevin bought and ran a corner store and raised their daughter, Sue. Kevin sadly died in 1987; however, Norma reposed on January 24th, 2025, one day shy of her 100th birthday. Norma said she credited her long life to 'living in the country'. "In her 100th year she was kind, compassionate, thoughtful, generous and much loved". Norma is included at No. 563 in "The

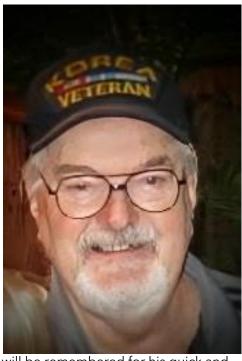


Descendants of Bryan Fitzpatrick, Lord and First Baron of Upper Ossory."

Leonard Fitzpatrick

Our sincere condolences to long-time Clan Society member Sue Amrhein on the loss of her dear father, Leonard "Pat" Fitzpatrick, age 89, who went peacefully home to be with our Lord on April 29, 2025.

Pat, as he was known by family and friends, genuinely and unconditionally loved his five daughters and one son. He will be deeply missed by his children: Patricia (Steven) Bartman, Kathleen (late Bradley Miller, Sr.) (James) Cornwall, Susan (Timothy) Amrhein, Diane (late Richard) Very, Michael (Daria) Lutz, and Maureen (Harry) Beck, as well as his beloved 17 grandchildren and soon-to-be 19 great-grandchildren. A lifetime fan of all Pittsburgh sports, Pat was born and raised in the Uptown section of Pittsburgh with his siblings Elizabeth Patterson, the late Virginia Greenier, the late Frank Fitzpatrick, and Gerald Tibbetts. Pat proudly served his country as an Aviation Machinist Mate 2nd Class with the United States Navy. Based out of Patuxent River, Maryland, he dedicated four years to active service during the Korean Conflict and two years in the Reserves. He was part of the flight crew for the R7V - Super Constellation "Connie" Aircraft and served as a flight mechanic for the R5D Douglas Aircraft. After his military service, Pat spent much of his career in the trucking industry as an over-the-road driver. He was promoted to Safety Manager for UPS, where he helped write their first ever safety



manual. He instilled safe driving skills in all his children and grandchildren. Pat will be remembered for his quick and engaging wit that drew people to him, his doting nature, and his love of all things Irish. Many of the family's favorite memories include wearing his #39 Fitzpatrick jersey, playing guitar and singing at family gatherings, interacting with Judge Judy on the TV, and the "wee ones" grabbing handfuls of change from the coin jar. He was always quick to hand over a \$20 dollar bill and tell you to "get ice cream for the kids." For more than 44 years, Pat was a dedicated Friend of Bill W., which provided great purpose for his life as he helped many friends when they were at their lowest. A military recognition ceremony was held for him on Friday, May 2nd, 2025.

Carl Fitzpatrick

Our deep condolences to Clan Society members Erica Thomas and Kelly Fitzpatrick and all their family on the loss of their father. A funeral mass for Carl Louie Franklin Fitzpatrick, 82, of Gallup, was held at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 31st, 2025 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Gallup, New Mexico. Burial was at the Veterans Cemetery in Gallup, followed by a celebration of life from 2:30 - 6pm at Veterans Helping Veterans. Viewing was held on Wednesday, July 30th, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Rollie Mortuary.

Carl was born on July 31, 1942 to Louie Fitzpatrick and Angela (Menini). He grew up in Gallup with his many cousins and lifelong friends. Carl graduated from Gallup High School in 1960 and New Mexico State University in 1965. Carl joined the Army in 1965, serving in Vietnam. In 1968, he worked for the Public Health Services in the Washington, DC area. He later became the Director of Finance for Navajo PHS and IHS in August 1986. In 1996, he became the Director of Finance for IHS and PHS for the U.S. Carl was a member of the Shriners, Masonic Lodge, VFW and Elks and enjoyed his role



as Santa Claus. Carl married Charlene Fitzpatrick (Sraver) on December 9, 1972. Carl is survived by his wife, Charlene; their children Erica Thomas and her children (Sawyer, Kyle and Ryker); son Kirk (Ashley) and his children (Logen, Cailin, Winter, Rylie, Mia and Ireland); and daughter Kelly. Carl is also survived by his sister-in-law Bonnie Luepkes (Mike) and brother-in-law Charles Sraver (Carole) and their children (Brooks, Madison and Carlisle). He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Louann, maternal grandparents Joseph Menini and Giovanna Civerolo; and paternal grandparents

John Fitzpatrick and Mollie Lane. Pallbearers will be Sawyer Thomas, Kyle Thomas, Ryker Thomas, Logen Fitzpatrick, Brooks Sraver, Scott Clark, Paul Starkovich and Peyton Starkovich. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shriner's Chidren's Hospital.

Monsignor John V. Fitzpatrick

The Clan Society wishes to commemorate the five-year anniversary of the passing of Monsignor John V. Fitzpatrick P.P., V.G., who died on March 28^{th,} 2020.

A retired parish priest of St. Fintan's, Sutton, Co. Dublin, he rested peacefully in the wonderful care of the Blackrock Hospice after a short illness borne with faith and conviction. Son of the late Thomas and Josephine Fitzpatrick of Deerpark, Mountrath, Co. Laois, he is deeply mourned by his brother William, his sisters Mary (Mullally) and Josephine, sister-in-law Ann, brother-in-law Pat, nephews, nieces, grand nephews, grand nieces, the Archbishop and Priests of the Archdiocese, relatives and friends. He was an attendee at several of the Society's International Clan Gatherings, most recently in 2018 in Portlaoise, along with his brother William. A funeral Mass was held in St. Fintan's Church, Sutton, on Wednesday 1st April 2020. Monsignor John is included at No. 409 in *The Descendants of Bryan Fitzpatrick, Lord and First Baron of Upper Ossory*.

Eugene Vincent & Mildred (Libath) Fitzpatrick

The Clan Society wishes to commemorate the twenty five-year anniversary of the passing of Eugene Vincent Fitzpatrick, and the five-year anniversary of the passing of his wife Mildred (née Libath) both of Jacksonville, Florida.

Eugene Vincent Fitzpatrick, age 73, of Jacksonville, Florida, died peacefully in his sleep twenty-five years ago at home on Monday, May 8, 2000. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Margaret Fitzpatrick and by his brothers, Raymond and James J. Fitzpatrick. A native New Yorker, Gene Fitzpatrick grew up in Valley Stream, NY. A devoted son, he lost his father, James at age 9, and his oldest brother James Jr. fell in combat rescuing a wounded friend on Saipan (a heroic feat recorded in "American Forces in Action:



Small Unit Action - The Fight on Tanapag Plain (27th Division, 6 July 1944). His brother Raymond served in the US Air Force in the European theater, while Gene served in the US Army; his mother Margaret (McGuire) served as the administrative head of the New York State and Nassau County Gold Star Mothers. After honorable discharge from service, Gene retired from CSX Corporation in Jacksonville, FL after a long and dedicated career in rail freight sales which started with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in 1948. He was the President of the New York Traffic Club from 1980-1 where he hosted the futurist Isaac Azimov as a keynote speaker for the Club's annual banquet. The family received friends at the Edward F. Lieber Funeral Home in Valley Stream on Thursday, May 11th from 7:00 till 9:00PM. On Friday, May 12th, at 9:45AM, Father Tim Hirten said the Funeral Mass at Holy Name of Mary Church in Valley Stream, where Gene and Mildred were married 50 years prior; he is interred in the Fitzpatrick plot at Calvary Cemetery, Queens.

Mildred's first priority and passion was always her family. Mildred and Gene provided a warm and welcoming home for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren (named below), along with many extended relatives and friends. They hosted annual Christmas and summertime beach gatherings, often for 30 or more people, during which superb fare and lots of laughter were always in abundance. After many transfers with the L&N, Seaboard Coastline and CSX railroads, they finished raising their family in Huntington and Amityville on Long Island, NY. Their

final transfer was with CSX to their headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida where they eventually retired. Mildred and Gene loved antiques and eventually became dealers on Long Island spending much of their free time together going to shows, refinishing antique furniture, summering in Maine or the Carolinas, and constantly learning. Mildred also dedicated many years to St. Luke's Hospital in Jacksonville, volunteering her time in the gift shop creating beautiful wreaths and dry flower arrangements to raise money for the hospital, all while spreading her warmth and joy to everyone she met. She served a term as the President of the hospital's Volunteer Association.

Gene left behind Mildred Libath Fitzpatrick, his dear wife and best friend of half a century. Mildred reposed peacefully at home on April 26th, 2020. Both are remembered by their six devoted children and their spouses: Margaret J. Kimpton (husband Geoffrey H.); Pattie Fitzpatrick; James Fitzpatrick; Sean Fitzpatrick (Marie McMahon Fitzpatrick); Mary Ammons (Russell Ammons); and Kelly Fitzpatrick (Charleane Heading); with their twelve adoring grandchildren: Eugene Ryan Fitzpatrick (Melissa Waldron Fitzpatrick); Kyle Fitzpatrick (fiancée Margaret Collins); Kevin Fitzpatrick (Angelina Kaehl Fitzpatrick); Magurie Fitzpatrick, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Rebekah Fitzpatrick; James Kimpton (wife Xenia Harmon Kimpton); Harry Kimpton (wife Rachel Thampapillai); and Amanda Ammons Hatch (husband Shay Hatch); with their great-grandchildren: Amelia, Ciaran, Maura, Eileen, Brigid, Niamh, Dallan; David; Alexander, Robert, Clementine; Sonny; Lilith, and Elisha; along with Gene's late sister Florence L. Fitzpatrick; their nieces and nephews: Raymond and Kathy Fitzpatrick, Trey, Suzanne, Matthew, and Mollye; the late John Fitzpatrick, Tom and Lisa Fitzpatrick, and Thomas; Ted and Barbara Libath and children; Marsha Gontarski (Stan Gontarski) Gloria Jo Roth; Nancy and Tom Zorn.

Announcements & Upcoming Clan Society Events

Births & New Arrivals: Growing & Sustaining the Clan!

The word "Clann" in Irish means "children" or "offshoot". Thanks to all parents who endeavor to raise the next generation of Fitzpatricks, handing down your outstanding heritage and smashing good looks. Give them all the very best of you, and let them not forget where they come from. Beannacht Dé oraibh!



Congratulations to new parents Ryan & Jessica FitzPatrick of Denver, Colorado who welcomed twin girls Erin Brynn and Alba Cassidy FitzPatrick into the world in November 2024. Here they are, adorned in Fitzpatrick tartan. A fetching pair of Fitzpatrick cuties!







Congratulations to Eugene Ryan & Melissa Fitzpatrick of Glenville, New York who welcomed their seventh child, Dallan Ryan Fitzpatrick into the world in July 2025. (The Editor must thank his champion bride for making the world a more Fitzpatrick place, one kid at a time. Image credit: <u>Lauren Kirkham Photography</u>. Fitzpatrick tartan photo forthcoming.)



Regional & Local Clan Fitzpatrick Tent Events

The Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society was present at the 2024 & 2025 Captial District Scottish Games again in Altamont, NY to meet the public and discuss all things pertaining to Fitzpatick heritage, history, genealogy, genetics, heraldry, and culture. All served with a splash of whiskey and good cheer, no Irish clan or topic was off the table for discussion and research. Books, maps, swords, and craic facilitated the day's discussions. Over forty people used our Clan Tent as home base that day, in a sea of over 10,000 attendees who came to see the heavy athletics, dancing, bagpipes, dog show, and traditional music. Every year we meet new Fitzpatricks who join the Clan Society and connect with the Clan around the world.



The event took place again this year on Saturday, August 30th, 2025 and we'll be there every Labor Day weekend hencefoth, Lord willing, rain or shine. All are welcome to join us and march with us under Fitzpatrick banners in the parade of Clans. See the <u>Captial District Scottish Games event website</u> (https://scotgames.com/) for each year's details for directions, tickets, parking and more. You'll find us in the Clan Tent village. Reach out to Clan Society officer Ryan Fitzpatrick on the List if you're interested in attending or if you're interested in representing the Fitzpatrick - Mac Giolla Phádraig Clan Society at a local Irish, Gaelic, Celtic, or other heritage event near you.





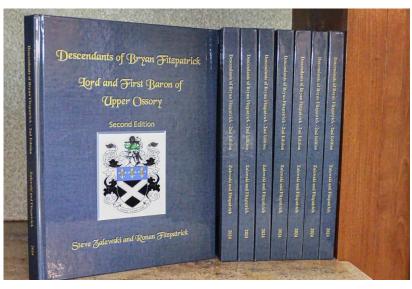




New Clan Society Publications

Clan Society officer Steve Zalewski has been hard at work on behalf of all members through his continuous research and cataloging efforts. In 2024, he and fellow researcher and Clan Society Founder, Dr. Ronan Fitzpatrick published a third printing of their 2nd edition publication, Descendants of Bryan Fitzpatrick, Lord and First Baron of Upper Ossory. This publication significantly extends the first edition and at its core is a roll of nearly 1,000 individuals who are descended through the Fitzpatrick line from the 1st Baron (born as Brían Mac Giolla Phádraig; c.1478-1575).

The ubiquitous nature of technology has changed how genealogical research can be done



and we have captured the power of technology to bring this to publication. Access to sources that could not even have been imagined when we produced the first edition is now commonplace. Thanks to electronic communication and online genealogy, our access to sources has been much broader and more efficient. By this means, it has been possible for us to search out and retrieve archived Fitzpatrick materials that are not generally known to exist. During the decade since the first edition, new collections of personal papers have been made available at archives and libraries, and families who can show descent from the Baron have freely shared their genealogy with us. We have engaged with these families to fully document and cite substantiating sources. The combination of all of these has resulted in a doubling of the number of individuals in the original roll.

This edition follows a similar format to the original book and greatly expands the genealogical records of the Baron's descendants. It consists of a series of generations which make up The Roll that lists the genealogical details of almost 1000 persons. Interspersed between the generations we have added many illustrations which brighten the simple listing of names and dates. To support The Roll of fifteen generations (1485-2010) we include a Biographical Notes section which is a goldmine of research nuggets for those who want to take an aspect of the study further. Every event in The Roll is substantiated by at least one citation and we leave full details of all of these in the Citations section so that future researchers can cross-reference our work. A feature of the first edition was an extensive listing of all of our research sources. This listing has been substantially extended and for ease of searching we have ordered it alphabetically by surname (sometimes an author's, or sometimes an individual's from The Roll). They are listed in the Sources section and of themselves they are an extensive researcher's resource. We have continued to include the repository and call number for every source we handled, and at the end of the volume a full Person Index is included.

The barons, lords, ladies, earls, knights, viscounts, princes and princesses that we traced in the first edition are all still included, and this time we add monsignors and bishops. But most are individuals who are not titled, and many are unaware of their rich ancestry. While we extend and enhance the lines traced in the first edition, we have added two significant new lines. One line has living descendants in Ireland and the other has descendants in Australia. Also, lacking in the original publication was details of what happened to the main Baron line after they had been declared outlaws and denied the title. We revisit that, and we recount their unsuccessful petitions to the Irish House of Lords to have their titles restored.

The illustrations which brighten the transition between generations fully described Fitzpatrick coats of arms and castles. We include maps that show the locations of these castles and Fitzpatrick churches. We also show place names that repeatedly occur in the search for Fitzpatricks. Using electronic scans and photographic images of manuscripts we bring some sources to life, providing the reader with an opportunity to read sixteenth or seventeenth century handwriting. From hundreds of images that we hold we have included a representative selection chosen for their relevance to a particular generation. So, we have portraits, prints, pictures and photographs chosen for their interest to

Fitzpatrick historians and researchers. Many of these are in full color and have never been published before. The overall effect of the additions is a rich and engaging experience for readers and researchers.

This third printing of the second edition provides the same content as the first two printings and makes the second edition available to those unable to purchase it before. In addition, it has a new cover and we are very pleased with the result. We know that many Listers who missed earlier opportunities to buy a copy are patiently looking forward to it and they won't be disappointed. This Fitzpatrick book has been written with historians and researchers in mind, and it will be a treasured volume in every Fitzpatrick home. It would be a much appreciated gift for a significant Fitzpatrick event. Family matriarchs and patriarchs will enjoy recounting some of its detail to the younger generations, and it is also suitable as a Christmas gift, graduation gift, or as a christening gift for the latest family arrival. It is in this context that we recommend it to you.

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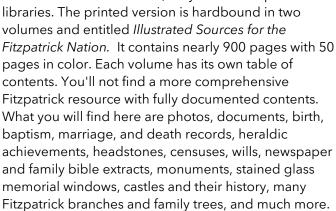
This book is a must-have for any serious researcher on Fitzpatrick genealogy, as it is the most significant publication on Ossory's leading lineage since the tomes of Canon Carrigan and Rev. Shearman; rooted in their foundations, with updates for the subsequent generations through the 21st century. Steve Zalewski and Dr. Ronan Fitzpatrick have truly carried on the august and revered tradition of Irish genealogists and transcribers from ancient times down to modernity, while marshalling an army of cited sources with academic rigour. This volume makes for a beautiful heirloom to pass on to future generations. Order your copy while supplies last. Steve will be delighted to receive your order regardless of your shipping address.

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Illustrated Sources for the Fitzpatrick Nation

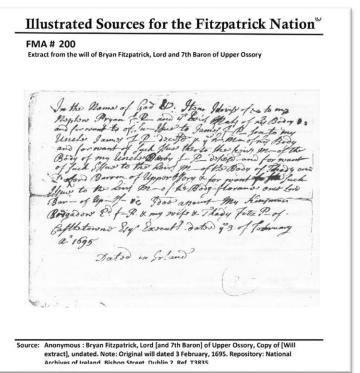
Additionally, Steve Zalewski and Dr. Ronan Fitzpatrick also published another gem and testament to their outstanding efforts in 2025; a printed and bound hardcopy of the contents of the Fitzpatrick Media Archive (FMA). They made the digital version of the FMA available on the Clan Society website for free. To provide future researchers with their decades of work, they donated a printed version of the FMA to selected



Opportunity was given to Clan Society members on the List to order their limited edition copy. Thanks to all who supported Steve and Dr. Ronan in their endeavors and secured a copy. Purchase for this is no longer open, but stay watchful on the List for whatever comes next. These volumes are a veritable treasure trove of information, now preserved for posterity. Thank you both for all your painstaking work.







See the Research page for more information on how to download the FMA.