

# The Collection of Fitzpatrick Research

## Third Edition

Nearly five years have elapsed since The Collection was last published and it is time for the next update. The scheduled release date for the third edition of The Collection is January 1, 2021. To meet this deadline, please submit your new or updated information to me before December 1, 2020. This document will describe the database and what is required to add/update your Fitzpatricks in the existing database.

### Overview

*The Collection of Fitzpatrick Research* is a database of Fitzpatrick names, events, dates and places contributed by over 130 Fitzpatrick researchers worldwide and currently contains over 14,000 Fitzpatrick events. These events include, but are not limited to, births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials. The Collection standardizes the format of the information submitted and organizes the resultant data into sorted lists to facilitate searching. If you have MSOffice 365, a PC application will be provided that makes searching by given name and/or location easier. The application and reports are made available to only those that have submitted Fitzpatricks to the database. The Collection is for the use of contributors to augment their own research and is expressly forbidden to be published on the internet or reproduced in any publication or in any electronic media.

### Objectives

The objective of The Collection is two-fold. The first objective is to consolidate the Fitzpatrick research of all participants into a single location and make this research available to all participants. The second objective is to facilitate the sharing of genealogical information by providing leads for contributors to contact each other when there is a likelihood of a common ancestor. These leads are achieved by comparing each entry in The Collection with all other entries in The Collection and reporting on the matches.

The methodology involves collecting the research submitted and converting it into a common format. Placing a person in a known location at a known date is the goal for each

event entry. Names, events, dates, locations, and the contributor's name are the primary data items for each entry. In some cases, sources and comments may also be included.

## Screening Criteria

To provide a higher probability for a match between entries of different contributors, as well as a providing a workable searching mechanism, a standard format is required. Files may be submitted in GEDCOM, CSV, TXT, or spreadsheet format and each file will be converted into the standard format. This format will contain a surname, given name, event, date, and location. All items must be present to be included in The Collection. In addition, the following criteria must also be met:

**Surname:** Must be a Fitzpatrick surname or close variant.

**Given name:** Must be a viable name or an initial. Cannot be blank, "Unknown", "?", "child", "son", "daughter" or similar names.

**Event:** An event in a person's life that creates a document that can corroborate the name, date and location of the event. Common events are births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials but may also include immigration, christenings, censuses, court proceedings, et. al.

**Date:** The date of the event with the right-most 4 characters indicating the year.

**Location:** The place of the event. The location may have up to four jurisdictional levels separated by commas. The smallest jurisdiction is at the left, larger jurisdictions to the right. A maximum of 30 characters per jurisdiction is permitted.

A minimum of 4 complete Fitzpatrick name, date, event, and location groups must be submitted by a contributor in order to be included in the database. Each entry satisfying the screening criteria will then be added to The Collection along with the name of the person submitting that entry.

## Acceptable Data Formats

Files may be submitted in GEDCOM, spreadsheet, or document format as described below. These files should be emailed to me at [szalewski2000@yahoo.com](mailto:szalewski2000@yahoo.com) before December 1, 2020. Only one GEDCOM file from each person will be accepted prior to that date and no files will be accepted after that date. See your genealogical program's "Help" file for instructions for creating a GEDCOM file. It is not necessary to remove all non-Fitzpatrick

names from your GEDCOM file, but only Fitzpatricks and close Fitzpatrick variants will be included in the final report.

Spreadsheets (XLS, XLSX or CSV) and document (DOC, DOCX, or TXT) files must have a Fitzpatrick surname or close variant, given name, event, date, and location. One name/event/date/location combination per line is required except as noted below. The order of these columns is unimportant, but a description of the column must be listed as the first line in the file. If you have an entire file that contains the same event, for example, a file of only Fitzpatrick births from Church of the Holy Rosary in Co. Limerick, please name the file as such, e.g., "Fitzpatrick Births-Church of the Holy Rosary Co Limerick.XLS" or "Fitzpatrick Births-Church of the Holy Rosary Co Limerick.DOC". Text files must have double quotes around all fields and commas between the different information types. For example, a text file might look like this:

```
Surname, GivenName, Event, Date, Place1, Place2, Place3, Place4, Source
"Fitzpatrick","James Emmett","Birth","9 Feb 1891","Chicago","Cook Co","Illinois","USA",
"Steve Zalewski"
"Fitzpatrick", "James Stanley", "Marriage", "5 Mar 1970","London","England",,"Steve
Zalewski"
```

Note that in the Marriage line above, only 2 Place Levels are given for location. In these cases, use commas if necessary to indicate that places 3 and 4 are not included. Always enter Place1 before Place2, Place2 before Place3, and so on.

A spreadsheet file with the same individuals recorded might look like this:

Surname	GivenName	Event	Date	Place1	Place2	Place3	Place4	Source
Fitzpatrick	James Emmett	Birth	9 Feb 1891	Chicago	Cook Co	Illinois	USA	Steve Zalewski
Fitzpatrick	James Stanley	Marriage	5 Mar 1970	London	England			Steve Zalewski

If using a spreadsheet like Excel, enter all dates beginning with a single quote. This tells the software that your date is text, whether it is or not. Otherwise, a date entered as "5/3/1904", when formatted as text, becomes "1585" in Excel. All dates are converted to text prior to loading into the database so it's best to handle this when entering the data.

If you have comments that relate to individual rows, they may be added as another column in the file. Comments are best added in the spreadsheet by adding a new Comment column after the Source column. In document files, comments can be added with a comma after the Source column followed by the comment.

If you are updating a file or GEDCOM, please use the same email address you used when you last submitted your file and indicate that this is an update to earlier data. If you have a different email address, indicate the old email address in the email that accompanies the file. In addition, if you are sending a file that contains someone who is part of the Fitzpatrick DNA study, please include the name AND birth date in the email and which Fitzpatrick group he/she belongs to if known.

Contact me at [szalewski2000@yahoo.com](mailto:szalewski2000@yahoo.com) for any questions.

*Steve Zalewski*

