

The Collection of Fitzpatrick Research

Fourth Edition – 2026

Steve Zalewski

Introduction

The purpose of the Collection of Fitzpatrick Research is to consolidate the research of Fitzpatrick researchers around the world into a single, easily searchable source. The Collection is made available to the public to facilitate family and/or historical research. The Collection contains Fitzpatrick and variant surnames, events, dates, locations, and contributors if permitted and may contain sources and comments. The Collection may be searched by any combination of given name, location, and year range and will return results that satisfy the search criteria. Results may be sorted by several column groups and printed on a local printer if less than 200 lines.

Contributions to The Collection are contributed in a variety of formats, e.g., GEDCOM, text, and spreadsheet formats. Researchers compile their contents primarily from personal family research but may include historical research from other sources as well. Fitzpatricks listed on cemetery headstones, in church records, hospital records, ships passenger lists, tax records, etc. While these may also be sources for specific individuals in a family, these “other” sources relate to results found searching for all Fitzpatricks at a specific location. For example, a list of all Fitzpatricks found in a particular cemetery or all Fitzpatricks found in the records of a particular church may be included. Events include, but are not limited to, births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials. Any event that may be documented that provides a name, year, and location may be included. With some exceptions, the Collection reformats these contributions into a standard format that records a Fitzpatrick name, event, year, and location to provide a snapshot of an individual at a specific time in a specific location.

Exceptions to the mandatory name, date, event, and location are early Fitzpatrick lines (<1500A.D.) that often exclude location. These have been included to provide a history of the Kings of Ireland as documented in Rev. John Shearman’s work *Loca Patriciana*.

Accuracy and Aliases

No assurance as to the accuracy of the data is guaranteed. Accuracy is the sole responsibility of the contributor. Files submitted for inclusion are processed as-is with only minimal changes for locations. To facilitate searching, locations submitted may be altered for

consistency. For example, if searching for Fitzpatrick events in West Virginia, one would have to know which names for West Virginia contributors used to denote that location. In this case, contributors have recorded West Virginia as WV, W. Va, W Va, WV, West Virginia, West Virginia, and W va. When names other than West Virginia are used for that location, the alias name of “West Virginia” may be searched using its standard name.

For locations that are clearly locations within a country, the name of the country is added to the location. If West Virginia is the largest geographical location recorded for an event, “USA” is appended to the aggregate locations for that event. Appending the country allows searching by country. While appending the country works successfully for many locations, it doesn’t work for all locations. For example, a location given only as “Dublin” cannot be reliably assumed that the location is in Ireland as there are many “Dublin”s in the USA. Therefore, “Ireland” is not appended to locations when only “Dublin” is the location.

Requirements

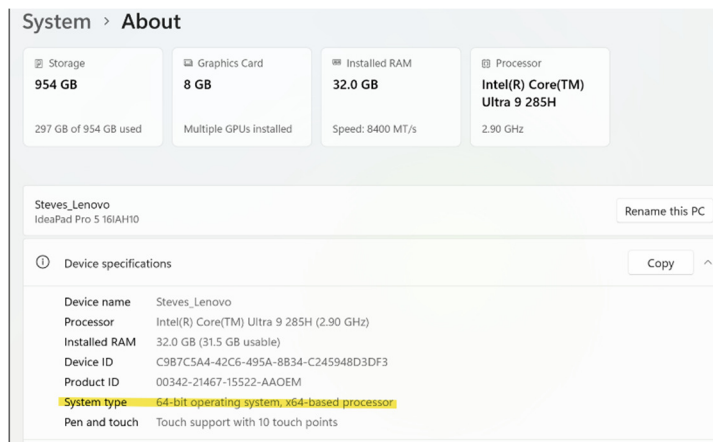
In order to access The Collection, a PC with Windows 11 is required. In addition, either the current version of Microsoft 365 containing MSAccess or a runtime version of MSAccess is necessary. Some versions of Microsoft 365 exclude MSAccess so ensure that you use the correct install procedure. Both procedures are explained below.

If you have a current version of MSAccess:

Download the file “The Collection of Fitzpatrick Research.accde” from our website at <https://fitzpatrickociety.com/research-2/>. Move the “accde” file to your Documents folder. This file may be opened from that folder. If you wish to access The Collection from another folder, create a shortcut to the “accde” file and move the shortcut to that folder. Do not install the MSAccess runtime if you have MSAccess already installed.

If you don’t have a current version of MSAccess:

Determine whether your PC operating system is a 32-bit or 64-bit. You can do this by clicking the Windows folder and going to System menu option. You should see:



Download and install the runtime version of MSAccess from <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/download-and-install-microsoft-365-access-runtime-185c5a32-8ba9-491e-ac76-91cbe3ea09c9> matching the correct operating system bit size. Select “English” from the language box and then download and install the correct runtime. Installing the runtime version allows using The Collection without paying the annual cost of \$100+ for the full version of Office 365. The download and installation process takes about 10-15 minutes depending on your connection speed.

After installation of the runtime, download the file “The Collection of Fitzpatrick Research.accde” from our website at <https://fitzpatrickssociety.com/research-2/>. Move the “accde” file to your Documents folder. This file may be opened from that folder. If you wish to access The Collection from another folder, create a shortcut to the “accde” file and move the shortcut to that folder.

Operation

In order to preserve the privacy of the contributors and those living, only those non-living individuals or events over 100 years old are included in The Collection. The Collection is for the use of the general public and reports are expressly forbidden to be published on the internet or reproduced in any publication or by any electronic media without written approval by the author.

All items having a given name, event, date, and location are 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 source 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.

Source/Comments: Contributors submitting text or spreadsheet files may record these in their file. Source will be shown prior to the "/" and generally reflects information about the source. Comments about the individual or event is shown after the "/".

Help files for each search criteria as well as an overview of The Collection are available on the search screen. These help files provide quick access to help as well as hints for usage.

Searching

Searching The Collection consists of entering any combination of given name, location, and year or range of years. Pressing the search key will display Fitzpatricks that match all of your search criteria and display surname, given name, event, date, location, source, comments, and contributor. Contributors preferring to remain anonymous will be blank. Others will show the email address of the contributor. They may be contacted to find additional information about a person of interest.

If searching for a given name, a check box "Search Exact" is provided so only the given name provided will be shown. An unchecked box will show given names that have the search name as any part of the given name.

Searching in a single year may be selected by entering the year of interest in the "From Year" field. A range of years may be selected by using the "From" and "to" year. Only years are permitted and month and day are not.

Any location may be entered in the location field. As explained earlier in this document, locations may be recorded using different forms. Different versions of locations are standardized to facilitate searching. To search for a standardized name, dbl-click the location field will show a list of standardized locations. Scroll to the location of interest, click it and it will be shown in the location search field. When searching for a standardized name, different spellings originally submitted for that name will be returned.

Several sorts are possible with the names returned. For example, once the entries that match the search criteria are found, the results may be sorted by date, location, or event. These source selections are replicated in the printed reports.

Reporting

Reports will contain all entries that satisfy the search criteria submitted by contributors. However, only 200 entries may be printed. If more than 200 entries are returned and printing is desired, it will be necessary to lessen the number of entries returned by decreasing the search criteria, e.g., checking the Search Exact box, and/or lessening the geographical area to search, and/or decreasing the range of years searched.

Reports displayed and printed may contain names and email addresses of those that contributed those entries. Some have given permission to include their names and email addresses with their contributions and their contact information is included with their entries. Other contributors have chosen not to display their contact information. While it is better for researchers to contact the contributor about a name, the information about a person of interest may be a sufficient clue to solve pending research questions about that name.

Some have received an “Exact Match” report. This report includes other contributors that have submitted a person with exactly the same name, event, date, and location. While contact information has often been excluded from The Collection at the request of the contributor, each report contains at least one other contributor submitting identical information who may be contacted to exchange family information.

Contact me at szalewski2000@yahoo.com for any questions.

Steve Zalewski

