

James N. Fitzpatrick (Sr.) **(1850 – 17 Feb 1916)**

Fitzpatrick. On Thursday, February 17, 1916, James N., beloved husband of Elizabeth A. Fitzpatrick (nee Combs), and son of the late John C. and Mary C. Fitzpatrick, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. Funeral from St. Peter's Church, Saturday, February 19, at 9:30 a.m. Interment private.

The Evening Star, February 17, 1916, p. 15

James N. Fitzpatrick Dies In His 66th Year Was Assistant Chief of Division of Appointments in the Treasury Was Once Characterized as "the Most Valuable Clerk in the Department."

James N. Fitzpatrick, sixty-six years old, assistant chief of the division of appointments of the Treasury Department, and connected with that branch of the government service since 1880, died at his home, 212 1st street southeast at 5 o'clock this morning.

The funeral will be held Saturday from St. Peter's Church. Rev. John H. O'Brien, pastor, will celebrate the mass for the dead. Mr. Fitzpatrick was a devout churchman and a constant attendant at St. Peter's Church.

His illness had continued since last October, when he was operated upon for a growth in his side. He never fully rallied, although he managed to return to his duties for a brief period. He has been confined to his bed, without hope of recovery, for ten days.

"That you are the most valuable clerk in the Treasury Department is common knowledge," was written of James N. Fitzpatrick, April 4, 1893, by the retiring chief of the division of appointments of the Treasury Department. Much the same thing has been said of him before and after.

Administered Oaths 36 Years

"Fitz," as he was popularly known, has been for thirty-six years administering the oath of office to Secretaries of the Treasury, minor financial dignitaries of the department and all its employes on appointment or promotion. He was not only known and kindly known to all in the public service attached to the Treasury Department, but was recognized as an authority in his field of endeavor, fully advised in all civil services rules and familiar with every detail of his duties.

He leaves a wife and three adult children. The children are Mrs. Katherine F. Rogers, James N. Fitzpatrick, jr., and John Fitzpatrick. A grandson is the son of James N. Fitzpatrick, jr. All are residents of Washington, and were at the bedside at the end.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was a native of Washington, born December 5, 1850. His father was clerk of the Senate committee on finance and the son became a page in the Senate in April, 1862. From then until May 1, 1879, he was an attache of the Senate, performing the duties of assistant to the financial clerk of the Senate and finally receiving appointment to that post. With change of administration he resigned, on request. It was then he sought service in the administrative branch of the government. The esteem in which he was held is indicated by the letter of recommendation filed with his record, from senators of the United States, all expressive of the impression made by Mr. Fitzpatrick as a competent and affable man. In the same record is contained a letter signed by Rutherford B. Hayes, then President, preferring him to appointment to a member of his cabinet.

Appointed Auditor in 1880

He was appointed a clerk in the office of the auditor for the Navy Department, June 1, 1880, remaining there a month, when he was transferred, July 1, the same year, to the division of appointments of the Treasury Department. Apparently at once made official notary, from that time he has been the official swearer-in of officials and employes of the Treasury Department.

The position of executive clerk of the division was created for him and he was appointed to it July 1, 1902. His then chief in recommending his appointment took occasion to tell of the remarkable qualifications of Mr. Fitzpatrick, his close attention to duty and the attractiveness of his personality.

For twelve years he remained executive clerk, being promoted, July 16, 1914, to be assistant chief of the division, his position at death. In all the period of his service Mr. Fitzpatrick was punctual at his daily tasks, ate his luncheon at his desk, and applied himself to his work in a spirit of devotion to duty. Until the last year or so his vacation period seldom extended over fifteen days, and oftener was much less.

He was, for a number of years, a member of the committee of personnel of the Treasury Department, passing on the qualification of clerks for promotion. His present chief, Mr. Harper, applied himself to obtaining the last promotion, himself testifying to Congress the exceptional qualifications of Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Tribute of Colored Men

Richard Green, for years messenger on the door of the Secretary of the Treasury, in a letter of condolence to the stricken family, expresses the appreciation of colored men in the public service who have come into contact with Mr. Fitzgerald. He writes:

"We mourn with you and your children the loss of your good husband. He was one of the most conscientious and kind-hearted men to our race in the whole department. We do not believe that his place can ever be filled in the Treasury.

"Every employe of color in the Treasury Department joins me in this sincere expression of profound sympathy for you in your deep sorrow."

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Final Rites Tomorrow of J.N. Fitzpatrick

Tribute Paid the Deceased Official by Secretary of the Treasury

Funeral services for James N. Fitzpatrick, assistant chief of the division of appointments of the Treasury Department, who for more than thirty-six years administered the oath of office to Secretaries of the Treasury, who died Thursday, are to be held tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock at St. Peter's Church. Interment is to be private.

The Secretary of the Treasury, who has shared the general appreciation of the public services of Mr. Fitzpatrick, on being informed of the death, immediately made it the occasion to express his regard for his character and abilities and to extend to the family his condolences.

Secretary McAdoo's Letter

He wrote the following letter to Mrs. Fitzpatrick:

"I am distressed and deeply grieved to learn of your great loss. In the presence of death it is very difficult to say a word of consolation to a stricken family, but I know it is a great comfort to you to realize that the officials and employes of the Treasury Department with whom Mr. Fitzpatrick spent his daily labors loved and respected him for his own inherent worth, his clean life and his genial temperament. His thirty-six years of continuous service in this department constitute an enviable record of unremitting devotion to duty that merits the emulation of every employe of the federal government.

"The department loses a loyal and efficient official and his associates a faithful and devoted friend."

Eulogistic Resolutions Adopted

Resolutions eulogistic of Mr. Fitzpatrick's qualities as man and public servant and offering sympathy to the family were adopted at a meeting of officials of the Treasury Department, called for the purpose of determining the best means of indicating the sense of personal loss of his associates. The resolutions were then circulated through the various offices and signed by representative men of each division and bureau. They will be engrossed at the bureau of engraving and printing as a memorial to be presented to the family.

Honorary pallbearers, all employes of the Treasury Department, are to include Byron R. Newton, assistant secretary of the Treasury; Joseph E. Ralph, director of the bureau of engraving and printing; James L. Wilmeth, the chief clerk; James E. Harper, chief of the division of appointments, and the immediate superior in office of the dead man; William N. Thompson, confidential clerk to Assistant Secretary William P. Malburn, and Michael Wallace of the office of the auditor for the War Department.