IN THIS ISSUE

NAPOLEON AND THE FISKE

Genealogy brings many surprises into our lives. We need to be open to those little moments of "aha!" when we become aware of a new connection or a new relationship that is totally unexpected.

Take the Emperor Napoleon I, for instance. In the Fiske collection, I came across a very clear picture of the house of his exile on the small island of Saint Helena in the south Atlantic. It was accompanied by the story of his final days, in poor health, far removed from his beloved France, where he hoped that his ashes would be laid to rest on the banks of the Seine. But that was not to be. He died on 5 May 1821. He was dressed in his favorite uniform and covered with the cloak he wore at the battle of Marengo. He was buried "in a lonely spot near a spring shaded by two weeping willows."

And there is the "aha." There is a weeping willow here on the property where the Fiske Library is located. That tree has an interesting "genealogy."

In 1835, a French naval officer took cuttings from the grave of Napoleon and they were presented as a gift of the French nation to the United States. The cuttings were planted at Mount Vernon next to the grave of George Washington, where they thrived.

Following the end of the Civil War, an officer who was preparing to move west, brought similar clippings from the now flourishing willows at Mount Vernon, to Washington Territory. They were planted at the officer's new home on the hill above downtown Seattle. They thrived in this climate as well.

In 1962, the State of Washington decided Interstate 5 should be built across the property of the now deceased Civil War veteran. His son, James Vernon Metcalfe, had grown up with the story of the willow tree in the yard and he felt it was worth saving from the bulldozers of the freeway project. He convinced the City of Seattle to take cuttings and plant them in appropriate locations to maintain the lineage of the St. Helena willow.

Metcalfe also happened to be the historian of the Pioneer Association of Washington and he arranged for the City arborist to place some cuttings of the willow on the property at Pioneer Hall. Once again, a few feet from the shore of Lake Washington, the tree thrived. For the past 40 years it has graced the building that the Fiske Library now calls home.

It may be far-fetched to trace the story of a tree for 180 years, in four widely separated physical locations, and call it a "genealogy" but the parallel is not too far removed from what we seek whenever we trace the peripatetic path of our predecessors.

Gary A. Zimmerman

AMERICAN MEMORY: A SERVICE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT

The Library of Congress has been assembling a collection of historical materials from its vast holdings of books, photographs, maps and films and presenting them to the public on their website at http://memory.loc.gov. While the primary purpose is to bring this nation's history to life for modern audiences, it represents a useful adjunct to a genealogist's research efforts.

So far, five "local history" collections have been mounted as part of a much broader scheme. The latest in this series is entitled "American Notes: Travels in America, 1750-1920. There are 253 published narratives, by Americans and foreign visitors, who wrote about their experiences of travel during that time period. The collection also includes a fully-digitized, 32-volume set published between 1904 and 1907 under the title "Early Western Travels, 1748-1846". If you are researching families who moved "west" during this time period, you will find a great deal of background information here.

You can search on a family name, on a location, or just browse through the titles and the tables of contents. You can quickly move to the specific pages in question or you can read the entire collection at your own leisure. The

Library of Congress selected books in this presentation that were written in the first person, were free of copyright restrictions and were part of the General Collections within the Library of Congress. Some of the authors will be familiar to you, but many are not widely known in our times. Their reactions to places and experiences are very relevant to understanding what happened to your family in their westward migration.

An earlier collection, still on the web site, is entitled "The Capital and the Bay: Narratives of Washington and the Chesapeake Bay Region, ca 1600-1925." This includes historical biographies, promotional brochures, collections of photographs, and more first-person narratives. A search of this specific collection for the surname Draper returned 55 separate "hits" although several were at different places in the same book. The search engine picked up alternative forms of the word, such as "drape" and "to drape", but the word you seek appears in bold face in the html version of the text so it is easy to find. If you prefer, you can view the pages as images of the original book, which are offered in .gif format so the desired word is not highlighted in the image.

Other sections of this local history series include "Pioneering the Upper Midwest: Books from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, ca 1820-1910," and "California as I Saw It: First Person Narratives 1849-1900." (See the December 2002 issue of The Fiske Newsletter for an earlier stories on the American Memory program which deals with the settlement of the Ohio River Valley.)

Gary A. Zimmerman

APOLOGY

I regret any inconvenience caused by the e-mailing sent to some 480 users of the Fiske library who received a notice about the up-coming trip to the Family History Library.

The list was inadvertently set up as a "mail group" so that every response would be circulated to all 480 names on the list. It took about 18 hours for that error to be corrected and in the meantime, you were subjected to unnecessary Fisk-eSpam. I will be more alert in the future.

Gary A. Zimmerman

SOUNDEX... AND THEN SOME...

Do you remember when you first learned how to code a name in Soundex format? Were you getting ready to use the 1880 US Census or maybe the 1900 census, or were you trying to find a name in the Washington State Death Index?

Soundex was an innovative system developed in 1918 by Robert C. Russell of Pittsburgh (at least that was the year in which he received a patent for his scheme). He proposed indexing things on the basis of how they sounded rather than how they might be spelled. There are certain sounds in English that are hard to emulate in other languages and there are foreign sounds that don't fit well into the normal sounds made in spoken English. A name from a different cultural tradition might be "described" in English spelling in several different ways, although it might sound the same to the ear. In making indexes of census returns or of naturalization files, the same sounding name might appear in several widely separated places in a strict alphabetic sorting.

Russell proposed that the alphabet be divided into eight phonetic categories and a code be assigned based on the first letter of the name followed by digits representing the phonetic sounds heard in the spoken name. The Russell Soundex system was modified for the census index prepared by the US Government – now only six categories would be used, numbered from 1 through 6, and vowels within the word are not included in the numerical code. This American Soundex System is probably the one you learned during your early research efforts. It was used in the 1880 and 1900 Census indexes.

In 1910, only twenty-one states were indexed and they used either the Soundex system or the Miracode system. (Only the Louisiana index used both systems.) Miracode uses the same phonetic coding as American Soundex, but the cards record the census page references in a different way. Miracode cards showed the county, volume, enumerator district and the sequential family number assigned by the census taker. The Soundex cards showed the county, volume, ED, sheet and line numbers on the appropriate census schedule.

In 1985, another modification in the system was developed by Gary Mokotoff. He had been indexing the names of 28,000 persons who had immigrated to Palestine between 1921 and 1948 and legally changed their names in their new home. Most of these persons were Jews who had Germanic or Slavic names. The American Soundex system did not work very well for many of the eastern European Jewish names – for example, American Soundex did not readily distinguish between Moskowitz and Moskovitz, which sound the same but are coded differently.

Mokotoff published his proposals in Avotaynu, the journal of Jewish genealogy, and one of the readers made a further proposal to expand the system a little further. The scheme is now known as the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System. It codes for the first six meaningful letters rather than four, the first letter is coded rather than keeping it as a letter, two consecutive letters with a single sound are coded as a single number and when a letter or combination of letters may have two different sounds, it is double coded under the two different sounds. (Mokotoff uses the example of the "ch" in Chicago as a soft sound and in Christmas as a hard sound.) Thus, words with ch in their spelling will have two D-M Soundex codes reflecting the soft and hard options.)

The D-M Soundex system is finding increasing acceptance as a useful indexing tool among organizations with lists of eastern European names. Stephen P Morse uses it in his alternative search engine for finding names in the Ellis Island databases. You can find more information in "Soundexing and Genealogy" by Gary Mokotoff at http://www.avotaynu.com/soundex.html, at the National Archives Soundex site at www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/census/soundex.html, and at Stephen P Morris' very useful One-Step searching site, www.stephenmorse.org/index.html.

<div align="right">Gary A. Zimmerman</div>

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Fiske Research Trip to Ireland September 25-October 16, 2004

Sure and you'll find your ancestors among the 40 shades of green. Betty Kay Anderson will lead a tour of Ireland in the fall of 2004 leaving Seattle on September 25, returning October 16. The Fiske Genealogical Library will sponsor classes in Irish research spring 2004 in anticipation of the trip.

Research will begin with three days in Dublin at the National Archives, the National Library, The General Register Office or the Genealogical Office. The group will drive south to Ennis Kerry, and through the Wicklow Mountains to Glendalough and Waterford, founded by the Vikings in 853 AD. Side trips will be arranged to the Rock of Cashel and to Ballingarry, then on to the port of Cobh/Cork from which many ships departed for America. The group will then drive around the famous 69 mile Ring of Kerry and the Iveragh Peninsula enroute to Killarney.

From there the group will travel through Tralee and Dingle on to Adare famous for its stone walls and thatched cottages. The group will have dinner and two nights in the 15th century Bunratty Castle, view the Folk Park farm homes and enjoy a traditional Irish Ceili, wine, dinner and country dancing. On through Shannon to County Clare, the Cliffs of Moher, the Burrens Galway Bay and Cannemara. The tour continues to Sligo and Fermanaugh and Belfast for the Public Record Office, the Ulster Historical Foundation and the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland. From Belfast the groups heads south to County Down with a visit to Down Cathedral at Downparick, and back to Dublin.

The Itinerary may vary slightly until the exact costs (around $3500 for three weeks, including airfare) are known. Non researchers are welcome and special side excursions will be organized. Contact the Fiske Library by phone, or go online to our web site at: **http://www.fiskelibrary.org** for additional information.

Donald G. Brazier, David Brazier's Father, Dies

Donald G. Brazier, who had retired after 40 years on the staff of the Seattle Times, died November 5, 2003, at the Park Shore Retirement Community.

Condolences are expressed to his son, David, a member of the Board and Technical Director of the Fiske Genealogical Library, to his widow, Susan Howard Brazier and to the Brazier family.

Donald Brazier was a Naval Captain who served in World War II and Vietnam. He had edited the Garfield High School paper, the University of Washington Daily, and worked for the Wall Street Journal and New York Times. He was a board member of Catholic Community Services and a member of the Seattle Tennis Club. Remembrances may be made to the Fiske Library, Catholic Community Services, The American Heart Association or the Children's Hospital Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Salt Lake City Tour
January 22-31, 2004

The Fiske Salt Lake City Tour led again by Betty Kay Anderson is rapidly filling up to the maximum number of 40. Researchers will leave Seattle at 10:35 AM January 22, 2004 on Delta Airlines, and return at 7:57 on the 31st.

They will be staying a the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, next door to the LDS Family History Library, for 9 nights and 10 days.

Final payments of $ 750 for shared twin, or $1,185 for singles are due by December 15, 2003. Fees include one no-host dinner at a local restaurant during the trip, and a two-hour lecture by an expert genealogist from the Family History Library. Go to our web site at **http://www.fiskelibrary.org** for further information.

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

Wednesday Seminar Series
(10 sessions) $30.

Annual Library Membership
$40.

Annual Couple Membership
$60.

Annual Library Membership plus Full Year Seminar Series
(30 sessions) $75.

Best of Wishes for 2004!

SEARCH ENGINES AT ROOTSWEB

If you search for a surname in the boxes at the top of the Rootsweb home page, you may be missing some of the important information that resides elsewhere on that website! There are several search engines at Rootsweb and they are programmed differently. For example, the home page search engine using the blank boxes at the top of the page, under the title "Search Rootsweb.com" will check all of the databases at Rootsweb, but will ignore symbols that you enter that it cannot understand. It will not accept letters with umlauts, for example.

If you do a search for "George Müller" from that front page, you will get no hits in the large database known as World Connects and you will get a hint of 135 hits on WebPages on other sites. Most of those 135 hits are for Miller, not Müller. However, if you drop down that home page to the section entitled "Family Trees", and go to the World Connect project you get a quite different answer. The search engine for the World Connect database is programmed to accept umlauts and other diacritical marks – George Müller actually appears 35 times in
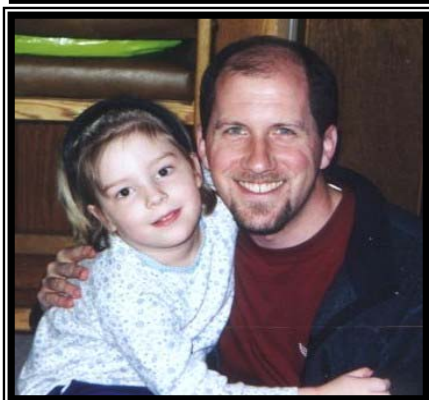
that database, but none of them were returned from the search engine at the top of the page. A similar test with the name Fernando Muñoz gave no hits in the first search and five positives in the second.

If you do a search in the Social Security Death Index for Muñoz you get zero results, but if you enter Munoz without the tilde, you find five deaths are recorded. In the case of George Muller, the Social Security Death index returns no names when the umlaut is retained, 225 names if the umlaut is omitted and you search for Muller and you get 321 names if you search on Mueller. The normal convention for an umlaut in German names is to use "ue" in place of the "ü".

Moral: be critical of diacritical marks when using search engines.

Gary A. Zimmerman

JIM FOTI - OUR NEW VOLUNTEER

Jim with his niece Ayla.

Before my maternal grandfather, Robert Chenoweth (a.k.a. "Gramps"), passed away in 1988, he passed the genealogy "bug" on to me, although it was another ten years before I realized it.

The grandson of Irish immigrants, Gramps had the Irish gift of storytelling (which unfortunately managed to skip my generation), and high on my to-do list is the completion of his draft manuscript describing his grandparents' journey to America. Just this summer, the story provided me with enough clues to locate Jim and Mary McElligott's record in the 1880 Census, taken just months (or perhaps weeks!) after their arrival in the States.

As for my own story, I'm the first of my immediate family to make it this far west and settle down, arriving in Seattle in June 2001. Driving a Honda was a much better deal than driving a Conestoga! I'm proud to call myself a native Marylander (Annapolis is my hometown) and I'm sure I'll end up living back there someday but this was my chance to see the West and earn my Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington. It's been a terrific experience, and it paid off this summer when I graduated from UW, about nine months earlier than I originally planned.

Between graduation and recently starting a part-time job as the librarian for Sound Transit in Seattle, I've used some of my free time to volunteer at the Fiske Library. Mainly, I've been working on the surplus books collection and developing an indexing system for the library's many pedigree charts and family group sheets. (Before moving here, I volunteered for several years in the library of the Historical Society of Frederick County, Maryland.)

One advantage of having been unemployed for a few months is that it's given me an extraordinary amount of time to pursue more of my own research. In just a few months, I've been able to trace back from my Quebec ancestors in the late 1700's to their origins in various parts of France in the 1500's, and discover more of my German origins. But I'm most proud of learning the names of my grandmother's grandparents, Stephen and Mary Melikant, who passed away in the 1870's in Slovakia. My grandmother, who turns 89 this December, never knew their names but had always wondered.

My interest in genealogy may be atypical for a single fellow in his thirties, but it's turned into my gift to my parents and relatives.

Jim Foti

Mary Stevenson,
Mary Peters and
Helen Barton
opening a new box of books for
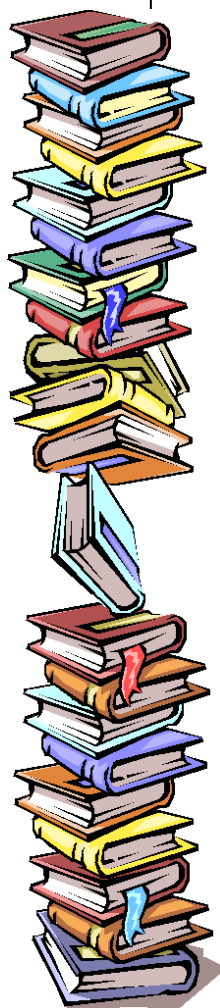the Fiske Library.
November 2003

FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS

NORTHWEST

- A comprehensive History of the Wash. Soldiers Home & Colony
- A Friend of the Family – Washington Mutual Hist.
- Island Ebb & Flow – Waldron Island, WA
- Montana History (periodical)
- Idaho Gen.Soc. Yearbook
- Free Land for Free Men – Clakamas Co., OR
- Orcas – Gem of the San Juans
- Bellingham City Directory 1906
- Polk's Olympia City & Thurston & Mason Co. Directory 1919-1920
- Inventory of the County Archives, Adams Co., WA
- Snohomish County in the War
- The Conquerors - Northwest

NEW ENGLAND & NEW YORK

- Cemetery Inscriptions, Pawlet, Vermont
- Guide to Historical Resources in Washington Co., NY
- Records of MA Militia. War of 1812
- Bay State Monthly (MA)
- History of Winchester, MA
- Mayflower Quarterly, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, & 2003
- The American Genealogist, Apr 2003
- New York Pedigrees
- Gen. Journal of Jefferson Co., NY
- The New England Connexion
- The Graveyard Shift – New York City Cemeteries
- Through the Years in Mendham Borough (Morris Co., NJ)

SOUTHERN

- America's First Western Frontier – East Tenn.
- Families of 1850 Census of Nicholas Co., VA
- Families of Letcher Co., KY
- Families of Nicholas Co., WV
  - Kerr Co. Texas Death Records, 1903-1960
  - Scott Co., Tenn. U.S. Census 1850
  - Carolinas Gen. Soc. Yearbook
  - Tennessee research
  - 2400 Texas Pensioners
  - Gravestone Inscriptions, Shelby Co.,   TN
  - Bluegrass Roots of Kentucky (periodical)
  - Kentucky Pension Roll of 1835
  - South Carolina Gen. Society periodical
  - Montgomery Co., Ga. – a source Gen. & History
- Virginia Marriages publication 1700-1799

MIDWEST & MIDATLANTIC

- Cemetery Records in Montgomery Co., PA
- Map of Oconto Co., Wisc.
- Wabash Co., Indiana records, Vol 1
- War of 1812 Bounty Lands in Illinois
- Watford City, ND, McKenzie Co.
- Butter in the Well (Saline co., KS)
- Pattonsburg's 100 yr. story (Davies Co., MO)
- History of Baxter Co., AK
- History of Fillmore Co., Mn.
- History of DeWitt Co. IL
- Our Country, Our Story, Portage Co., Wi.
- Pioneers and Progress, Burke Co., ND
- Montgomery Co., Ind. Original Entry Book 1821-1826
- Missouri Pioneers
- Canton and Stark Co., OH
- Kin Kollecting (Arkansas)

CONTINUED...NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS

- Iowa Connections (Boone Co.)
- Iowa – catalog of maps
- Circuit Rider (periodical) Sangamon Co., IL

GENEALOGIES
- Bartlett Genealogy
- Bartlett, a computer collection of genealogical data
- Charles Edgar Smith
- Hacklemans in America 1749-1988
- Smith Family History – The Aaron Burr-Smith family
- The Bartletts
- The Conditt Family
- The Hull Family
- The Hull Family Assn – Member lineages
- William Almy of Portsmouth, R.I.
- Descendants of Jacob Crissey of Pennsylvania
- Halfway House – Kirwin family
- Slaves in the Family – Hall family
- Ivers Family
- The Name and Family of Richardson
- A family genealogy of Mitten, Mittan, Moore, Smith and Allied families

GENERAL GUIDES
- A Guide to Norwegian & Norway, how to trace your ancestry
- Black Indian Genealogy Research
- Cherokee Roots, vol. l
- Daughters of Colonial Wars, Book 6, 1981-1992
- Daughters of Colonial Wars, Book 7, 1992-1995
- Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Norway
- General Society of the War of 1812, Register 1972
- How to Research American Indian blood lines
- The Immigrant Experience

- Genealogy on C.D. Roms
- Journal of Johannes Schwalm,
- Trails West
- Desert Tracker (Az.)
- Marriage Laws in the U.S. 1887-1906
- G.I. Tracks – 2 publications
- The Everett,WA Family History Center
- Some past issues of Heritage Quest, the Genealogy Bulletin and The Sounder

CANADA
- Picture History of Alberta
- Three Valley Gap (B.C.)

Many thanks to the following donators;

Glenn Farley,
Donna Clancy,
Euretta Shirley,
Gini Wisner,
Friends of the Fiske Library,
Gary Zimmerman,
Mary Peters,
Dorothy Sprague,
Betty Key Anderson,
The Baldwins of Monroe, and
Mrs. Smith.

Mary Stevenson

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION
WINTER EDUCATIONS SESSIONS 2004

All classes will be held from

10:00 am to 12 Noon

in the Library at 1644 43rd Avenue E. in Seattle (in the Madison Park neighborhood).

Tuition is $5 per class or $30 per quarter. An annual library membership with educational privileges is $75. All sessions are led by Gary A. Zimmerman, unless otherwise indicated.

14 January	Computer-Aided Genealogical Research and Travel - Dave Ault
21 January	Maryland Genealogical Research
28 January	NO CLASS - Salt Lake Trip
4 February	Genealogical Resources in Michigan
11 February	Nineteenth Century text books on-line - Karl Kumm
18 February	Recent Acquisitions at the Fiske
25 February	North Carolina Repositories
3 March	Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
10 March	Irish Genealogy
17 March	Documenting your family history - Ida McCormack
24 March	The Paper Trail of a Veteran - Curtis Roselle from the National Archives.
7 April	No Classes- Spring Break

BEGINNING GENEALOGY SESSIONS

Drop-in sessions for beginners on the basics of getting started in family history research will be offered on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, in the Library. There is no tuition, but participants will be asked to pay for their handouts at cost. To ensure that sufficient handouts are printed in advance, please call the library and let them know the dates of the sessions you wish to attend. The instructor is Mary Peters.   Call (206) 328-2716

2004 - WINTER CLASSES - INVITED LECTURERS

Three of the classes in the Winter will be presented by invited lecturers.

David Ault is new to the Fiske. But he is well-know to many of us. He presently coordinates the Computer User Group at the Seattle Genealogy Society, has made many presentations on computers, genealogy and how the computer can aid us in our genealogical research. Entertaining and informative, he will help you to use your time more efficiently in Salt Lake or where ever you plan to travel.

Curtis Roselle will give us an overview of all the varied records that allow us to trace our veteran ancestor's military service. "The military veteran leaves a paper train containing data of priceless genealogical and historical value," Curtis Roselle explains. "The trail can begin before he enters service with draft records and military service academy applications. It may continue after his service with pensions, state bonus, and soldier's home records. It may even follow him to life's end and after with National Cemetery and headstone application records. " He has given lectures quarterly at Sand Point for the National Archives for years. As a Wednesday volunteer at the archive, he loves to share his knowledge of military records. Come meet Curtis.

Ida McCormack has been actively researching her Washington pioneer ancestors for many years. She is well-know within the genealogical community, and, lately, has been very active in the Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group. Ida has customized TMG extensively to meet her high standards of documentation. Her insights into the challenges of documentation should be most rewarding.

Many of us do not use or think to use books on-line as a resource for information about our genealogy. Karl Kumm will show you how to locate books on-line relevant to your research. He will also share with you some of the hits he has made searching his family in these sources.

Gary Zimmerman will be making six presentations this winter. Three states will be featured: Maryland, North Carolina and Michigan. He will also introduce us to genealogical research in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and Ireland. Come hear about how the history of these regions shapes how we do genealogical research. Learn about the major repositories and how to access their collections on line. Think about the Fall trip to Ireland and begin planning now. There will also be a class on recent acquisitions at the Fiske.

Karl Kumm
Education Coordinator

FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Wednesday	Noon to 8:00 pm
Thursday	3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Friday	Reserved for research groups (greater than 8 persons) from outside the greater Seattle Area. Contact the Library to make reservations.
Saturday	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
2nd Sunday of Each Month	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Fiske Genealogical Foundation
1644 43rd Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112-3222

Return Service Requested

HOW TO FIND US!

Fiske Library is located on the lower level of the Washington Pioneer Hall.

- Drive east on East Madison Street until you see a Starbuck's Coffee shop to your left, and a one way street sign ahead.

- Ease to your right and follow East Blaine Street to the end of the street.

- The Washington Pioneer Hall faces onto 43rd Ave. East. The Fiske Genealogical Library is located on the lower level of the building.