

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2006 VOLUME 13 NUMBER 3

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In the last issue of the Newsletter, I wrote about New Year's Resolutions for a genealogist. One of those resolutions suggested the need to plan for the disposal of your genealogical work by your estate. A few weeks later, I read about a proposal made by Randy Seaver of the Chula Vista Genealogical Society in California. He was writing about the same topic with a little different slant. Mr. Seaver has kindly given us permission to reprint his article, which follows this note.

Mr. Seaver is a retired aerospace engineer who has been doing genealogy for about 18 years. He has English, German and Dutch heritage and has done research on many colonial families in New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Here is more food for thought - and you might consider a further Resolution for the Ides of March!

Gary A. Zimmerman

A PERSONAL DISASTER PLAN

By Randy Seaver © 2005

Are you prepared for a personal data disaster? What will happen to your precious mementoes, heirlooms, documents, certificates, pictures, movies, videos, and genealogy databases if a disaster happens to you?

Will your genealogy research survive a computer hard drive crash, a theft of your whole computer system, a fire, earthquake, landslide, flood, or a nuclear catastrophe? What about your death?

I've read quite a bit about this issue, listened to the computer guys on the radio, considered my own situation, and have formulated my own plan. Here it is:

- 1) Inventory the family documents, mementoes, heirlooms, etc, including their origin, general description and physical location. Keep these items in a safe, dark, dry, cool place in archival holders.
- 2) Scan the original documents and save the digital images on the computer. Make Xerox copies of the original documents and provide them to family members for safekeeping. Keep the original documents in a safe, dark, dry, cool place in archival holders.
- 3) Scan family photographs and save the digital images on the computer. Organize the photographs into family groups, and give them descriptive names with dates, if possible. Label the original photographs. Keep the original photographs in a safe, dark, dry, cool place in archival holders.

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A PERSONAL DISASTER PLAN...CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

- 4) Backup your computer hard drive data regularly in order to protect against a hard drive or system failure. An external hard drive with many gigabytes is relatively cheap, it is portable to another computer, and it is easy to copy data from the computer hard drive to the external drive. You don't need to copy all computer files – only the precious data files that you cannot replace easily (e.g., databases, documents, photos, financial records, etc). This can be done daily, weekly, monthly, yearly – how much are you willing to lose? I tend to do it monthly.
- 5) In order to circumvent a theft, fire, flood, earthquake, etc., copy your precious data files on to CD-ROM's on a regular basis. Then store these CD-ROM's at places away from your home (e.g., at work, safety deposit box, with a friend or relative, etc).
- 6) In order to circumvent the nuclear catastrophe or your own demise, make and send CD-ROM's with your precious data files to family or friends far from your hometown.
- 7) Your death is inevitable. In order to ensure that your precious family data is saved and used, write a genealogical will telling what you would like done with the mementos, heirlooms, papers, documents, photos, etc. Include directions to either publish your research as is or to use your research to complete genealogy books. Define the books in detail, and the repositories where you wish them placed. If you want to contribute a genealogy database to an online repository (e.g. Rootsweb), specify what you want submitted. Appoint an heir to find, inventory, update, improve, keep, publish or donate your material to a repository. Leave a significant bequest to an heir to perform these tasks, or to have it done professionally. This is your life's work.

I recommend a fireproof safe for things kept at the house, stored in a closet away from the computer room. For real precious documents or heirlooms, a safe deposit box at a bank is recommended.

The lifetime of a CD-ROM is anywhere from 2 years to 20 years, according to the computer people. Plan accordingly. As DVD writers become readily available, more precious data will be able to be stored on DVDs with a longer shelf life.

That's my plan, and I've talked to my family members about it. I am still working on all aspects of the plan. I have so much stuff from four generations in one family that I am behind on the archiving bit of it. I also have many more old family pictures to scan. I do the computer backup on a monthly basis, and at Christmas time I give a CD-ROM to my children and siblings with the year's photos, newly digitized documents and my genealogy databases.

By Randy Seaver © 2005

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS CATALOG ON-LINE

The Society of Genealogists in London is the largest family history research facility in the United Kingdom. If you are pursuing lineages in the British Isles, you will want to consider the resources of the SOG. An on-line catalog of some of these holdings has recently become available on the internet at www.sog.org.uk/sogcat/index/html. While none of the library material is on-line, this is a great way to learn if the Society is holding things of interest to your own family research.

The digital catalog was prepared with financial assistance from the National Lottery and lists all books, microfiche, microfilm, CD-ROMs, audio cassettes and a few videos. There is a tutorial and "Frequently Asked Questions" page to assist you in getting acquainted with the catalog. This will often give you details of published materials of interest to you, some of which you will then be able to locate in the United States.

The tutorial will help you structure your search terms to get the maximum benefit from the catalog. The library is organized by topics within geographical areas and the subject headings reflect this. Within each county or country, there are seven major headings and then a catch-all "general" heading. For example, you might be looking for records from Kent in south eastern England. The choices of headings are censuses, directories, local, monumental inscriptions, periodicals, poll books and registers or you can use "general."

A subject search for "Kent - registers" returns 1414 hits, with 27 of them under Kent – Registers, General and 25 under Kent – Registers, Marriage licences.

London is a long way from the Pacific Northwest, but the Society will offer a limited search and copy service for some of the indexes and finding aids within the collection. There is a listing of the data-

bases that can be searched in this manner at www.sog.org.uk/library/searches.html. There is a fee requested in advance for that "look-up" service and responses often take about a month for a response. Searches are completed in the order of receipt by the Society.

There also is a link to the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA) if you want to engage a trained researcher to go to the Society premises and work directly for you.

Aside from the catalog, the Society website also has a listing of holdings county by county at www.sog.org.uk/prc/index.html and this may be a good supplement to your catalog searching.

The Society offers a number of leaflets for download on topics relevant to doing genealogical research in the British Isles at www.sog.org.uk/leaflets/index.html.

Gary A. Zimmerman

FISKE BOARD MEMBERS

President	Gary A. Zimmerman
Librarian	Mary Stevenson
Treasurer	Ann Owens
Secretary	Carolyn Blount
Technology Director	David Brazier

FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS

NEW ENGLAND and NEW YORK

- Historical Writings of John Fiske, v. 6
- Ipswich (MA) in the World War
- Candlewood, an ancient neighborhood of Ipswich
- Ipswich Village and Old Rowley Road
- Plum Island (MA)
- Ipswich River
- Two Ipswich Patriots
- Jeffrey's Neck and the Way Leading thereto
- Record of Births, Marriages & Deaths in Hanover, MA
- 18th Century Springfield (VT)
- Pomfret, VT, vol. 1
- Cemetery Inscriptions, Eastham, MA
- Vital Records of Marlborough, MA to 1850
- Historical Rutland (VT)
- County Atlas for Middlesex, CT (1874)
- Gazetteer & business directory of Cattaraugus Co., NY
- History of New Fields, NH.
- Ye Names & ages of all ye old folks in every hamlet, city & town in ye State of Connecticut 1884
- The Pilgrims of Boston and Their Descendants
- The Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire, 1623-1660
- Burial Inscriptions and data of burials in Berwick, York Co., Maine to the year 1922

SOUTH

- The Virginia Genealogist (20 vols. with index) (CD)

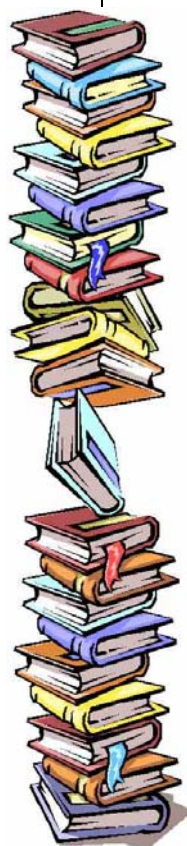
- Wills in Breckenridge Co., KY
- Lexington Sesqui-centennial (KY)
- History of Marshall Co., W. VA
- War of 1812, Virginia, Bounty Land and Pension applications
- History of the 20th Tennessee Regiment volunteer infantry, C.S.A.

MIDWEST

- History of Warren Co., IA
- Historical Sketch of Madison Presbyterian Church, OH
- Illinois Family Bible Records, Vol 2
- Hoosier Journal of Ancestry (Indiana periodical)
- Old Landmarks of Canton and Stark Co., OH
- Guide to Genealogical resources in Cincinnati & Hamilton Co., OH
- Heads of Households 1855 state census, Kendall Co., IL
- Milton, Wayne Co., Indiana cemetery records

WEST

- Old Scotch Cemetery, Tualatin Plains, OR
- St. Francis Cemetery, Roy, OR
- OR Burial Site Guide
- Washington State Vital Records 2003
- Marrowstone
- Seattle Business Directory 1876
- Lincoln High School (Seattle) class reunions for 1939 and 1941
- March of the Mounted Riflemen (Oregon)



FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS

(Continued from page 4)

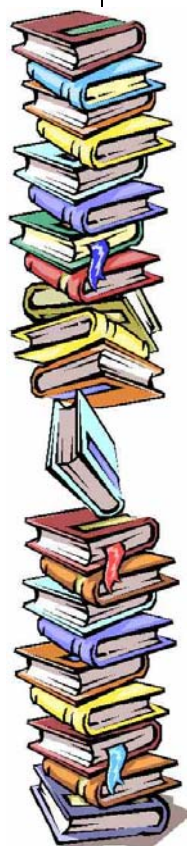
Trail)

MID-ATLANTIC

- Pennsylvania German Church Records 1729-1870 (CD)
- Scottish Dissenting Presbyterian Churches, Allegheny Co., PA
- History of Fayette Co., PA
- Marriages and Vital Records of Western Pennsylvania & Eastern OH 1820-1868

GENEALOGIES

- Horsford-Hosford Families in U.S. of America
- Lineage of Hayden and Lawless
- An American Family Heritage (William Wann & Ann McGowan Wann)
- MacDonald/Mcdonald Family records
- Whittet - a family record
- Westmoreland nee Neville
- Chauncey Family
- Chapman Family
- Marshall Family of Pennsylvania
- Buttram - Descendants of Wm. Buttram & Margaret of Rowan Co., NC.
- The Hosford Genealogy
- The Headley Genealogy
- Harriet Hosford Ormsbee
- Descendants of James and Florence Patton
- Anneke Jans-Bogardus & Adam Brouwer
- Trigg History
- The book of Ragan/Reagan
- John and Molly Rayner
- The Gurney Family



- Some Family records of our Lanham Family
- Genealogy and Family History of the Uphams of Castine, Maine
- The Hollister Family of America
- Henry Sateer - 1690-1754
- Family records of the descendants of Thomas Wait of Portsmouth, Rhode Island
 - Barnard Genealogy
 - The Buchanans of OH
 - Westering Man (Joseph Walker)
 - Augustine Heard and his friends
 - The Clay Family
 - Caleb Benton and Sarah Bishop
 - Ancestors & Descendants of Walter Covey (2 vols.)
 - Memorial to Ex-Governor Peter Vroom
 - 350 years of Halsteads in America
 - The News Castor (periodical)
 - The Little Bits (periodical)
 - Sanders to Caesar + supplement
 - Lest You Forget by Gladys Edwards
 - Littells Living Age
 - History of the family of Benjamin Snow
 - James Lesslie of Topsfield, MA, and some of his descendants

ENGLAND

- 1881 British Census and National Index (CDs)
- British Isles vital record index (CDs)
 - Index to Wills in Court of Canterbury (3 vols.)
- Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland (CD)
- British Origins of American Colonists 1629-1725

(Continued on page 6)

FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS ...CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

- Bristol and America
- Finding your Family—A Guide to the Berkshire Record Office

OTHER FOREIGN

- 1833 through 1906 Palatine Emigrants from Edenkoben
- Names - Locating your Dutch Ancestors in Colonial America
- French-Canadian Sources
- The Palatine Immigrant (periodical)
- Heroes de la Nouvelle (France)
- Many Trails Crossed Here (Canada)
- Inscriptions and Graves in the Niagara Peninsula (Ontario, Canada)

- Your Guide to Cemetery Research
- Hidden Sources
- Mormon Immigration Index (CD)
- Public Records on Line
- The American Counties

Generous contributions were made recently by the LDS library in Salt Lake City, Carlaine VanAllen, Linda Ravage, and Mary Stevenson, who purchased books there while on their trip in January, Bill Meyers, Gary Zimmerman, Gladys Edwards, Bill and Mary Davis, and Rosemary Newell. We wish to thank each one of them for their interest in our library.

Mary Stevenson, Librarian

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Care and Identification of 19th Century Photographic Prints
- Officers and Cadets of U.S. Military Academy, 1923 and 1924
- American Genealogical and Bio. Index (CD)

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

TRY YOUR HAND AT MINING IN WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Department of Culture and History is offering a free database of vital records, on-line and with clear images of the original records. It represents the beginning of an on-going collaboration between the State of West Virginia and the FamilySearch Archive of Utah. At the present time, the database contains scanned images of original birth, death, and marriage records from six counties and most state-wide death certificates from 1917-1954. Check them out at www.wvculture.org/vrr/

The database has over 3.5 million names, found on 1.4 million original images from Calhoun, Gilmer, Hardy, Harrison, Mineral and Pendleton counties. The record dates vary by county and type of record. Birth records are for 1853-1930; county death records from 1853 to 1969 or 1970, and the marriage records from the creation of a county until the late 1960's.

FamilySearch did the filming, scanning, and creation of the database. The West Virginia Department hosts the database on state computers. So far, the joint project has involved 2500 volunteers putting over 64,000 hours of contributed time. Additional county records will be process and added to the database in the future.

If you search in the marriage records, the list of hits that comes back allows you to click on either the bride or the groom's name and connect to a report forms showing the details of information tran-

scribed from the marriage license, the clerk's certificate, and the minister's return.

Always look at the actual image to compare with the transcribed data. You may find that there are facts on the actual record that were not transcribed into the database. You may be more familiar with the family and read the original record in a different way than the transcriber did.

The West Virginia marriage records will usually give the full names of the bride and groom, their ages, their place of birth by county and state, their current residence, and the names of the parents of party to the wedding. The image will also show the name of the informant who gave the information to the clerk's office. The officiating minister's return will show when and where the wedding actually took place, and often shows the church affiliation of the minister. Some of the actual records show the occupation of the groom, although that may not appear in the transcription report.

The death certificates usually give the names of the parents of the deceased, including the maiden name of the mother.

If you have a family history that passed through Virginia or West Virginia, you may want to mine this treasure trove of easily accessible information.

Gary A. Zimmerman

SHELF LIST ON-LINE IS NOW CURRENT AND COMPLETE

The shelf-list of Fiske library holdings is now complete and easily accessed on line at www.fiskelibrary.org/ShelfList/bibint.htm Mary Peters recently completed the re-formatting of the shelf-list files and will now up-date the shelf-list on a continuing basis as new materials are entered into the collection. Try it! You'll like it!

NEW RESOURCES FOR WISCONSIN RESEARCH

The Wisconsin Historical Society has started a Dictionary of Wisconsin History to give quick descriptions of people and places that played a role in the development of Wisconsin from the days of the Indians and then the fur trappers to the present day.

There are currently over 8000 terms in the list. It is a growing document, and readers who look for a definition, can't find one and want to add to the list may submit their contribution for review. You will find the Dictionary at www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/.

The organization also offers "Turning Points in Wisconsin History" at www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/ with pictures, manuscripts, and hundreds of eyewitness accounts of events in Wisconsin's past. One of the Turning Points is entitled "Immigration and Settlement" and there are five separate collections under this heading: 19th Century Immigration, Development of the Railroads, The Founding of the Major Cities, the Founding of Social Institutions, and Great Lakes Steamships and Canals.

The 19th Century Immigration section offers 22 digitized articles, six artifacts from the museum, six digitized books, seven collections of stories about specific immigrant communities, four original manuscripts, and 11 "places" with photo exhibits of different areas within the state. This is followed by a long list of "primary sources" on-line at other locations. One of these is "Early Fond du Lac County People and Places" and offers a connection to four digital volumes: an 1857-58 Fond du Lac City Directory, an 1868 Fond du Lac county gazetteer, a book entitled "The History of Fond du Lac County as told by its place name," and an 1898 volume entitled "Fond du Lac Illustrated."

Then when you get tired of reading digitized books, turn to Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles at www.wisconsinhistory.org/wlhba/ where you

will find 16,000 articles on 50,000 pages fully digitized taken from scrapbooks collected by the Historical Society in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Most of these articles were published between 1860 and 1940. The search engine for this collection only looks at words in the headlines of the news article, at surnames, and at subject terms. It is not possible to do an every word search of the text. There are many names in the articles, so you will have to do some digging to get the most out of these scrapbooks.

Gary A. Zimmerman

SO HOW MUCH LAND IS THERE?

Fiske Librarian Mary Stevenson recently brought in a news clipping about the term "zygocephalum." It is a unit of land measure, but not found in your everyday desk dictionary or even in the Oxford English Dictionary. The Fiske Library 1864 edition of Blacks Law Dictionary, however, solved the problem.

A zygocephalum of land is the area that can be ploughed by one yoke of oxen in one day. The term was used in property descriptions in the 1700's. The "zygo" comes from the Greek word for "yoke" and the "-cephalum" comes from the Greek word for "head."

While not in common usage for over 200 years, the City Council of Santa Monica, California, in May 1988, reviewed a proposed revision to that city's zoning code and defeated a motion to delete the definition of zygocephalum from the ordinance, despite the fact that there had been no yoked oxen in the city for many years.

Gary A. Zimmerman

CATCH ON TO LIBCAT



Are you at an impasse in your research? It may be helpful to make a list of libraries located in the area where you last had contact with that missing ancestor. Even small town libraries may have vertical files or pamphlet files with cogent information about families who

lived in the community. There may be finding aids and special indexes, prepared by the staff of that local library, which does not have wide recognition outside of the walls of the library.

Make your list of possible libraries, review their website if it is available, and then contact the librarian with a specific question about their holdings. You are not asking a librarian to do your research; you are asking a librarian what material is available that might be relevant to your research. The more focused your question, the more likely you will get a specific response.

LIBCAT is a useful tool to identify libraries with online catalogs all across the globe:

<http://www.librarysites.info>. (Note that this is a new domain name on the internet. There is nothing needed after the .info designation.) LIBCAT is easily navigated. Its links are usually up-to-date. Try it! You may be surprised at what you can find.

Whether you are seeking a small community in OH or a national library in Europe, a link to the homepage of their website will be quickly found at LIBCAT.

A link to the Leetonia Community Public Library has a link to their catalog on the top of their home page. At the catalog, a subject search for "Leetonia - History" quickly reveals that they have a vertical file of material on the history of the village. Leetonia was founded after the Civil War and is named for William Lee, one of the organizers of the Leetonia Iron and Coal Company. This village is located just south of Washingtonville, OH, in Columbiana County.

A query to the librarian could tell you if your ancestor is described within this resource - and it would be unusual to find information about the vertical file contents outside of the library itself. LIBCAT helped you locate it - now you have to take the next step! Good luck in getting beyond your roadblock.

Gary A. Zimmerman

ANNUAL FISKE SALT LAKE CITY GENEALOGY RESEARCH TRIP JANUARY 16-26, 2007

The dates for the Fiske Genealogical Library's annual research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City have already been established for 2007. The group will leave on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, and will return ten days later, on Friday, January 26.

The Church of the Latter Day Saints has purchased the hotel the group has used in the past, and rates will increase. Per person rates, double occupancy will be about \$40.00-\$50.00 higher for the 2007 trip than previously. Call the Fiske Library, 206 328-2716, or Betty Kay Anderson, 360 898-2537 after May 1, or e-mail bettykay@hctc.com for more information.



FISKE SPRING CLASSES 2006

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.

2006	Class Title	Class Description
29 March	No Class	
5 April	Cemetery Records	Ed Godfrey has been doing genealogy for decades. He chairs the TMG (The Master Genealogist) user group. He sets high standards for proof. He will share his knowledge of cemetery records with us.
12 April	No Class	
19 April	Doing Genealogy in Maine	Take a trip "Down East." Survey the genealogy landscape from Penobscot Bay to the Ketadhin Massif; from Prig, DeMonts & Popham to Statehood in 1820; from Abenaki Genealogy to Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness.
26 April	Maritime Records at NARA Seattle	John Fitzgerald is the archivist at National Archives Pacific Alaska Region who is most knowledgeable about the maritime records held at Sand Point. Did one of your ancestors go to sea? Do you need to search logbooks or wreck reports?
3 May	Baptist Records	The history of Baptists in America and review of important archives for Baptist research.
Monday, 8 May 2006	Tour of Seattle School District Archives	Note Tour will be on Monday . Space is very limited. You must pre-register with Karl Kumm k.kumm@comcast.net or with desk at Fiske. If you want to look at transcripts of grades, you will need to bring proof of death. Come look at high school yearbooks, press clippings, photos of teachers, students, buildings and more.
17 May	Tracking Hessian	History and genealogical resources to help in your search.

FISKE SPRING CLASSES 2006—CONTINUED

2006	Class Title	Class Description
24 May	How to get the most out of IGI and Ancestry	This class will help you use the IGI to access the originals of church records, create a descendency for all the immigrants of your surname and study the migration patterns found in the Ancestral File to pinpoint places to search records for your ancestors. This class is conducted by Betty Kaye Anderson.
31 May	Research in Canadian Maritime Provinces	History of the Maritime Provinces, how that history created records, and how to move our research forward using the internet.
7 June	Names Have Families, Too	Ida McCormick will take a linguistic approach to name changes and variants. Half the presentation will cover surname changes, the other half nicknames and given names. At the intersection of genealogy and linguistics, she promises "to try not to be too technical, but practical."
14 June	Iowa Research	The class will help you get the kernel of genealogical truth out of a pile of Iowa cornhusks.

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation Newsletter is published four times per year by the Fiske Genealogical Foundation, 1644 43rd Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112; phone (206) 328-2716 email gzim@fiskelibrary.org web site <http://www.fiskelibrary.org>

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation is a non-profit service organization that provides genealogical training, resource materials and support to members.

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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

Newsletter -Subscription Only
4 Issues—\$6

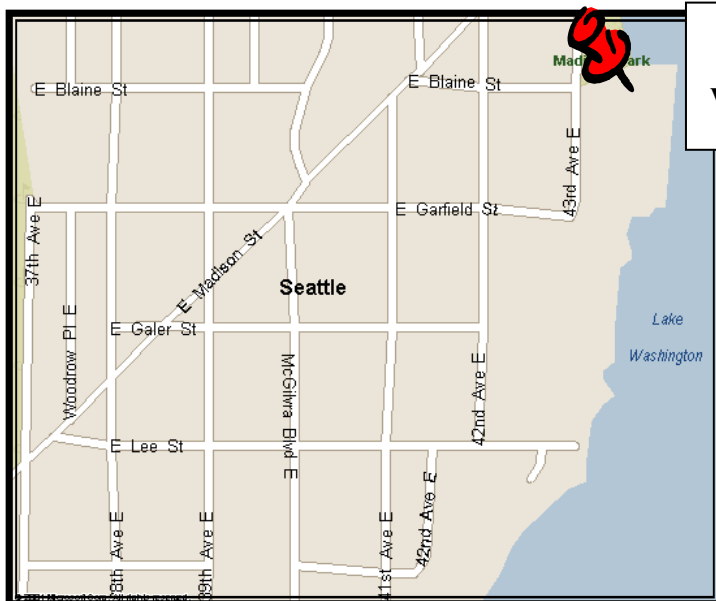


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Seattle, WA 98112-3222

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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 Starbucks 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.