

# FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



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March 2007 VOLUME 14 NUMBER 3

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## LIBRARIANS AND GENEALOGY

The American Library Association held its mid-winter meeting in Seattle in January. One of the divisions of the ALA is known as RUSA, the Reference and User Services Association. They organized an all-day symposium for librarians who deal with genealogy reference questions. About 70 librarians from all over the country were in attendance. A general theme of the day seemed to be the increasing role that digital formats will play in making genealogically interesting information available to the family history researcher.

Books, newspapers and even government records are appearing across the internet in a variety of formats and from a myriad of sponsoring organizations. Some of these resources are free to the user, some are available only through subscriptions to library networks and some are available by personal subscription.

Getting good digital images from old newspapers is not an easy task. At another meeting during the ALA conference, ProQuest, the vendor of the HeritageQuest online resource (which is sold only to libraries, for access to their patrons), described the process that they use in creating clean, searchable newspaper databases.

A digital scan of an old newspaper will usually pick up images from the print on the back side of the newspaper. These marks confuse an optical scanner. It is better to make a microfilm copy of the newspaper. It is possible to remove some of the markings from the reverse side of the newspaper and “clean up” the microfilm, so that a second copy of film with much better contrast between the text and the paper’s background color is possible. It is that image that will lead to a clean digital scan for use on an internet website. That cleaner image also can be scanned by optical character recognition software to create a more accurate database for indexing.

ProQuest is in conversations with the Washington State Library to explore how to digitize the historic copies of the Seattle Times from its 19th Century beginnings up to the early 1920’s. If this project comes about, it will be useful new tool for Washington state family historians.

Newsbank, Inc is another vendor with a diverse assortment of digitized historical newspapers (with over 500,000 complete issues from over 1300 separate newspapers). The collection currently includes titles published from 1690 to 1977. Because all of these newspapers are collated into a single database, researchers

(Continued on page 2)

## LIBRARIANS AND GENEALOGY

(Continued from page 1)

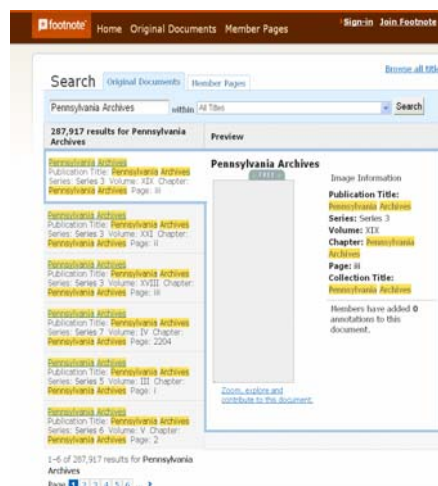
can do a single search to find everything from birth announcements to obituaries.

The number of organizations that are placing digitized historic books on-line also is increasing. Genealogists will need some new strategies to find and use this wealth of old information that is now available in much more accessible ways. Come visit the Fiske Library and we'll help you to locate these resources!

Gary A. Zimmerman  
President

## PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES SEARCHABLE ON-LINE

The complete set of published Pennsylvania Archives is now available on line and may be freely searched or images downloaded from [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com). You need to register your e-mail address and have a password. There are many other databases available on the site for a fee, but all 132 volumes of the Pennsylvania Archives are available to anyone at no cost. Take a look.



## 2008 RESEARCH TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY WITH BETTY KAY ANDERSON

The recent 2007 trip to Salt Lake City was a tremendous success. If you'd like to join Betty Kay on the 2008 trip, scheduled for January 9th through 19th, 2008, please call or email her now! This is a very popular trip and tends to sell out early; of the 40 places available, 27 people have already paid their \$200 deposits!

Should you wish to be on the list for the 2008, please:

- call the Fiske Library, 206-328-2716, or
- call Betty Kay Anderson, 360-898-2537, or
- e-mail [bettykay@hctc.com](mailto:bettykay@hctc.com) for more information.

To reserve your spot, please send a \$200 refundable deposit.

# NEW IMMIGRATION RESOURCE

The National Archives in London, England has licensed the publication of a digital presentation of their BT27 records of Outward Bound Passenger Lists for voyages leaving the British Isles from 1890 to 1960. When the information from these departures from Britain are coupled with your search results from the arrival information you find in the Ellis Island records, you can gain additional information for your family history research.

Starting at [www.ancestorsonboard.com](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com) you can begin to look for the departure information from Britain. If you do a free search for “John Cuthbert” you learn that there were 15 records with exact matches to that name with departures between 1890 and 1909; 52 records if you also include the initial J., and 195 records if you add the all other Cuthbert’s with no stated first name. For a small fee, you can view either a transcript of the record or an image of the original record. (The database was first posted with only 1890-1899 records. The information for 1900-1909 was added in early February and the later records will be added incrementally until all 30 million records are in digital format.

John Cuthbert, age 25, was a male who departed Glasgow, Scotland in 1893, with the intention of sailing to New York. The transcript gives you the additional information that he boarded the ship *State of California* in Glasgow on 23 June 1893; he was single and listed his occupation as “riveter.”

That same transcript also gives you details about the vessel. The *State of California* was sailing for the Allan Line and the State Line. There were 410 passengers on board for this sailing. The ship had a registered tonnage of 2670 and had 5971 square feet of deck area.

If you do a free search at

[www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org) for the arrival of John Cuthbert in New York, you easily find the record for the *State of California* entering New York on 03 July 1893, coming from Antwerp, with John Cuthbert, age 25, who boarded the ship in Glasgow and is bound for Oakland, California in the United States. His occupation is listed as “printer.” It also records that he was born in Scotland.

The comparison of the transcripts and images gives you details of the voyage from Glasgow to New York and new information about the occupation and plans of John Cuthbert. The Ellis Island record also records what class of accommodation that the passenger had while on the vessel.

The British database requires the purchase of “units” to see and download the transcribed record or to capture a digital image of the actual record. Units may be purchased on line with a credit card and must be used within 90 days of purchase. (50 units sell for about 5 pounds.) If you expect to do a lot of work in the database, you might want to consider buying an annual subscription which gives you unlimited access to the database.

Ancestorsonboard.com is a division of a British company, (1837 online), which also offers a view of other databases like birth, marriage and death records and some military records under similar license arrangements with the National Archives of Britain. They have recently created the website [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) as the starting point for these searches.

Gary A. Zimmerman

The screenshot shows the findmypast.com search results for John Cuthbert. The page includes a search bar, a list of search results, and a detailed view of a specific record. The record details are as follows:

Name:	John CUTHBERT
Date of departure:	23 June 1893
Port of departure:	Glasgow
Destination port:	New York
Destination country:	USA
Age:	25
Marital Status:	Single
Sex:	Male
Occupation:	Riveter

Below the record details, there is a section titled "The following people with the same surname travelled on this voyage: - Thomas CUTHBERT".

Ship:	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Official Number:	0
Master's name:	A G Braas
Steamship Line:	Allan Line And State Line
Where bound:	New York, USA
Square feet:	5971
Registered tonnage:	2670
Passengers on voyage:	410

## FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS

### Midwest

- Hinshaw Index to Iowa Quaker Meeting Records, Vol. 2
- Record of Revolutionary Soldiers buried in Lake Co., Ohio

### New England

- Leading Business Men of New Haven County & Historical Review of Principal Cities
- Vermont Newspaper Abstracts 1783-1816

### Northwest

- By Canoe and Sailing Ship they Came (Whidbey Is., WA)
- Sexton Records of Lone Fir Cemetery, East Portland (OR)

### South

- Abstracts of Baltimore County Land Commissions 1727-1762
- Cemetery Records, St. Johns County, Florida, Book 1
- Dawes Roll "Plus" of Cherokee Nation 1898 (NC)
- Maryland Gen. Soc. Bulletin, The Register (Kentucky) & Benton Co., TN
- Newspaper Abstracts of Frederick Co., MD 1811-1815
- Newspaper Abstracts of Frederick Co., MD 1816-1819
- Newton Co. Mississippi Marriage Records, 1872-1952
- Some Emigrants to Virginia

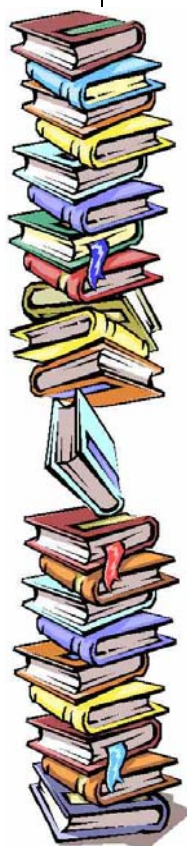
### Canada and England

- English Parish Records - Shropshire (Lichfield Diocese) (CD)

- English Parish Records - Shropshire (General and St. Asaph Diocese) (CD)
- English Parish Records - Yorkshire (Ainsty and City of York) (CD)
- Finding your Ancestors in British Columbia
- Fragmenta Genealogica, Vol. 1 & 2
- Glamorgan Family History Soc. publications
  - Register of Ontario Vital Records
  - Somerset County Historical Quarterly
  - The Feudal Barons of Powys
  - Tracing your British Ancestors
  - Welsh Family Coats of Arms

### General

- America Online Guide to Genealogy on Line
- American & British Genealogy and Heraldry
- American Women & the U.S. Armed Forces
- Ancestors: A Beginners Guide to Family History and Genealogy
- Family Tree Maker for Dummies
- Genealogy Online for Dummies
- Names, Nicknames and Misspelled Names
- Naval Pensioners of the United States, 1800-1851
  - Planting your Family Tree on Line: How to Create your own Family Website
- Searching on Location: Planning a Research Trip
- State Census Records (CD)
- The Scotch-Irish who came to America
- Ulster and North America: Transatlantic Perspectives on the Scotch-Irish
- Unlocking your Genetic History





## FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION

## EARLY WASHINGTON MAPS

(Continued from page 4)

### Genealogies

- Genealogical record of the descendants of Henry Mauzy & Jacob Kisling
- Our Children's Lloyd Ancestors
- Our Family Tree: Acadian, Colonial, Loyalist and Mayflower, V. 2
- Reminiscences by James Tulloch (CD)
- Samuel Slade Benton, ancestors and descendants
- Supplement & Corrections to "Benjamin Harrison Crowley"
- The Robbins Families of Virginia and North Carolina
- Two Addresses by James Willis Nesmith

Once again we thank the generous donors of these items for the library, including:

Joan Barber,  
Jackie Cedarholm,  
Mary Hamlin,  
LDS library at Salt Lake City,  
Virginia Lindsay,  
Margaret Race,  
Paula Ratcliff,  
Donna Sautbine,  
South King County Genealogical Society,  
Carldine VanAllen, and  
Gary Zimmerman.

The libraries at the University of Washington and at Washington State University have collaborated to assemble a useful digital collection of maps of the Pacific Northwest. You can find them at [www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/holland/masc/xmaps.html](http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/holland/masc/xmaps.html).

There is a "timeline" table that shows the maps in chronological order and relates them to key events in northwest history. The maps can be viewed in your web browser or in a Java viewer. In each map, a click of your cursor brings up a higher magnification of the image so that you can focus right in on any part of the map territory and read the fine print!

Here you will find 946 different items – and if you have any connection to an area of the northwest you may well find a useful map to review. There are "birds-eye view" pictorial maps of many Washington towns near the turn of the 20th Century. There are maps of the west from the time of the wagon trains.



## CONFEDERATE PRISONERS AT CITY POINT LOOKOUT, MARYLAND

The Union Army ran a prison camp on Point Lookout; at the end of the peninsula where the Potomac River flows into Chesapeake Bay. It was in operation for two years, from August 1863 to June 1865. Although the design was intended to hold 10,000 prisoners, the population of inmates usually numbered between 12,500 and 20,000. During the 22 months of operations, over 50,000 men were held as prisoners at Point Lookout (both military and civilian personnel were held here).

The William Clements Library on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor holds a significant number of records from this military prison. The collection includes letters written by prisoners of war (many from men wanting to take the “loyalty oath” that would have permitted them release from prison in order to enter the federal military or to be assigned some non-combatant task for the duration of the war). There are some 700 letters written by private citizens seeking information about specific prisoners. The collection also has a large number of receipts and sutlers’ (army camp followers that peddled goods to

prisoners) accounts for goods sold to specific prisoners.

There is a website at [www.clements.umich.edu/Webguides/Schoff/NP/Point.html](http://www.clements.umich.edu/Webguides/Schoff/NP/Point.html) which helps you find if a specific prisoner appears in the records. Then you must contact the Clements Library directly for access to the original documents. This site is a finding aid, not a collection of digitized records. To use the site, you load a specific page into your web browser and then search for a specific surname using the “find on this page” command from the edit menu of the browser.

The Clements Library collects original resources for the study of American history and culture from the 15th to the early 20th Century. Its focus is on scholarly research, not just genealogical queries. A serious search for a particular individual could be aided by recourse to the Clements collections.

Gary A. Zimmerman

The screen-shot (i.e. links aren’t active) below shows how the collection is arranged in several series. All but the Miscellaneous Materials at the end are indexed for prisoners’ names.

Box	Series	Description
Box 1	Printed item	Jones, G. W. <i>In prison at Point Lookout</i> (Martinsville, Va., n.d.)
	Correspondence	<a href="#">Official correspondence</a> , 1863 January 2-1864 April 4, n.d.
	Correspondence	<a href="#">Prisoners' correspondence</a> , 1863 September 21-1864 April 15, n.d.
	Correspondence	<a href="#">Correspondence from third parties</a> , 1863 August 28-1863 December 31
Box 2	Correspondence	Correspondence from third parties, 1864 January 1-1864 [ca. June], n.d.
Box 3	Sutlers' Receipts	<a href="#">Issued by Hiram Bailey</a> (127 receipts), 1863 September 3-October 17
	Sutlers' Receipts	<a href="#">Issued by E. L. Donnelly</a> (178 receipts)
	Sutlers' Receipts	<a href="#">Issued by H. Hodgdon</a> (117 receipts), 1863 September 12-October 17
	Sutlers' Receipts	<a href="#">Issued by Margaret M. Murphy</a> (177 receipts), 1863 September 14-1864 January 28
	Sutlers' Receipts	<a href="#">Receipts issued by Capt. J. N. Patterson</a> , 1863 November 30-1864 April 19
Box 4	Sutlers' Receipts	<a href="#">L.H. James</a> receipts, 1863 October 1-December 25
	Sutlers' Receipts	<a href="#">L.H. James</a> receipts, December 27, 1863-January 31, 1864
Box 5	Sutlers' Receipts	<a href="#">L.H. James</a> receipts, February 1-April 13, 1864
	<a href="#">Miscellaneous items</a>	

## COLONIAL MARRIAGE RECORDS OF NEW YORK

In the Dutch colony of New Netherland, a lawful marriage required that the parties desiring to be wed must first go to the ministers of the church at their place of abode (where they must have been living for a year and a day) or to the Court of Justice and arrange for public banns to be announced on three consecutive Sundays or Market Days or posted at the Court of Justice. This permitted anyone with knowledge that a valid marriage could not be performed to come forward and speak to the Church or the State. If they failed to make known the alleged impediment to such a marriage during this period of the Banns, such information would not be considered at a later date.

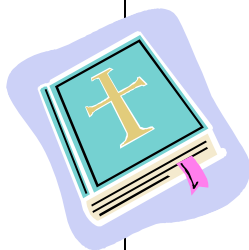
If the letter of the law could not be observed, government provided a way to dispense with the publication of the banns. A “marriage license” would be issued, which was nothing more than a formal permission to dispense with the publication of the Banns.

When the British took over the colony and renamed it New York, they maintained the practice of requiring publication of banns at the church or by issuing a license to dispense with the banns. In New York, these licenses were issued by the Provincial Secretary. Those receiving the license were required to post a penal bond of 500 pounds that there was no lawful “impediment of pre-contract, affinity or consanguinity to hinder the parties being joined in Holy Matrimony, and their afterwards living as Man and Wife”. The earliest license under the English process was dated 29 December 1664.

When the British evacuated New York in 1783, the practice of issuing marriage licenses fell into disuse. Several attempts during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to require the recording of marriages were made but compliance was never very good. Legislation

in 1880 became the basis for modern recording in New York, but even that law took a number of years to get universal compliance.

In 1860, there were 40 volumes of the colonial marriage bonds housed in the office of the Secretary of State in Albany. References to the licenses issued were found in a number of other registers in that same office. That year, the State published an alphabetical list of the brides and grooms who had received licenses or for whom bonds had been posted. The book was entitled “Names of Persons for whom marriage licenses were issued by the secretary of the province of New York previous to 1784.



The Fiske library has a copy of the 1860 publication in its rare book collection and a poor microfilm copy of the same book. However, there is now a fully digitized copy at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and it is easy to search for a surname of either the bride or the groom. Do not rely on the Ancestry search engine offered at the front of the book – browse through the lists for yourself. Each bond or license is listed twice – once for the groom and once for the bride, in one long alphabetical list.

In 1898, the State Library of New York published a “Supplementary list of marriage licenses” found among the archival records in Albany. The additional names came from three small folios found after 1860 and subsequently bound as Vol. 41 of marriage bonds, from a re-reading of the original 40 volumes of bonds and finding names that had been overlooked or misspelled, and a list of early Staten Island marriages that had not been included in the earlier book. The supplementary list was recently digitized and added to the Ancestry collection.

Gary A. Zimmerman

## DOROTHY SPRAGUE

## 2008 RESEARCH TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC

Dorothy Sprague first met Arthur Fiske in 1972 when he was giving a lecture at the Seattle Public Library. She began regularly attending his classes on Queen Anne Hill about 1975, and recalls that no one avoided becoming a volunteer!

Arthur told her that her Bisbee line would connect back to New England. Dorothy worked diligently and traced it back two more generations. When she told Arthur this, he seemed to ignore her success, and just kept bringing her books from the Fiske Library that added five generations to her research. Dorothy was hooked!

Dorothy began researching the Spragues, a prolific New England family. She traced the family back to England and has identified every "unknown wife" except for the elusive Hannah DeLong. An uncle was researching her McWhorter and West lines, but when he quit, Dorothy continued and had great success on the McWhorters in the mid Atlantic states, using Fiske Library resources.

In 2000, Dorothy moved to Arizona where she lives during the winter and volunteers at the West Valley Genealogical Society Library in Youngtown in northwest greater Phoenix. Dorothy was back in Seattle again, as usual, last summer, and devoted her time to the Fiske Library where she listed all the surplus books on the sale page of the Fiske web page. The goal is to sell the surplus in order to buy new books. In addition she helped with other technical projects and cleared the back room to make space for more projects and collections.

Thank you, Dorothy; we appreciate all your hard work!

Carolyn Blount

Are you interested in joining Betty Kay Anderson and 15 other genealogists (and a couple of tourist spouses) on a trip to Washington DC?

Betty Kay has booked some rooms in downtown Washington DC for Sept. 22, 2008 to Oct. 2, 2008. If you think you might like to go, please email Mary Peters to get on the list. There will be a \$200 deposit required before any further arrangements are made.

<mailto:maryinballard@vendor.net>




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### FISKE BOARD MEMBERS

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<b>President</b>	Gary A. Zimmerman
<b>Director</b>	Mary Stevenson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Owens
<b>Secretary</b>	Carolyn Blount
<b>Technology Director</b>	David Brazier



## SPRING 2007 CLASSES



2007 Date	Class	Instructor
11 April	Digitized Books	Gary Zimmerman
18 April	Panel: Strengths & Limits of Computer genealogy	Gary Zimmerman, Dave Ault, Betty Kay Anderson
25 April	Colonial Military Records	Karl Kumm
2 May	New Hampshire & Vermont	Gary Zimmerman
9 May	Doing Genealogy in Arkansas	Gary Zimmerman
16 May	Settlement in Oklahoma & Indian Territory	Gary Zimmerman
23 May	Counties in England & Wales -- Gary	Gary Zimmerman
30 May	UW Library	Allen Auditorium
6 June	Getting the Most out of Indexes	Betty Kay Anderson
13 June	Vital records at State Level on the Web	Charlotte Kennedy

*All classes will be held from 10:00 am to 12 Noon in the Library at 1644 43<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

# FISKE AUCTION AT 6 P.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007

The Fiske Auction, (to raise funds to provide a new floor and lighting for the "back room" overlooking Lake Washington), is scheduled for:

**6 p.m., on Saturday, June 9, 2007,  
at the Washington Pioneer Hall,  
1644 43rd Avenue East in Madison Park.  
Seattle, WA**

Hors d'oeuvres, wine and the auction table will begin a 6.00 p.m., with dinner of salmon or chicken prepared by resident chef, Frank Peters at 6:45. All this for a suggested dinner donation of only \$15 each!

Each table will bid on their dessert, so will Fiske volunteers please call Mary to donate their specialty!

Procurement forms are available on the web site. Fiske friends are asked to donate items that will encourage wild bidding! Interesting items donated

thus far include a signed Edgar Martinez Mariner cap, 5th Avenue tickets, a Maui condominium for a week, a Lopez Island summer home for a week, and hand painted greeting cards.

Bring your friends and plan to enjoy the evening and support the Fiske Library. Call Mary Peters at 206-784-8403 or mail her at [maryinballard@vendor.net](mailto:maryinballard@vendor.net) to donate items and/or for reservations.



## FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

<b>Monday</b>	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Noon to 8:00 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Reserved for research groups (greater than 8 persons) from outside the greater Seattle Area. Contact the Library to make reservations.
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	2nd and 4th Sunday of every month 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

## THE HISTORY BOX FOR NEW YORK RESEARCH

If you are researching families that were in New York City or elsewhere in the Empire State, you will want to explore the History Box website at

<http://thehistorybox.com> for a diverse number of sites on the internet are brought together here. You will find transcribed city directories from Long Island, Brooklyn, or Queens at various times through the 19th Century. You will find biographical sketches from all time periods in New York history. Or you may prefer to browse transcriptions of Erie County cemeteries.

Many of the links are to web pages maintained by private individuals. The quality of the resources is variable, but there are valuable resources here that merit your consideration. There is a listing of historians with research interests in specific areas of New York State with contact information and details of their personal topics of expertise. All can be reached by e-mail or telephone and invite your contact.

Key sections of this site include biographical sketches; cemeteries; cities, towns, villages and counties of New York; directories; ethnic groups of New York State; military; New York research tools; and a new section on the world of New York society.

## FISKE LIBRARY CATALOG

As reported in our last newsletter, the Fiske Library is in the process of cataloging all material in the collection using the Library of Congress classification system and entering the catalog data into the WorldCat catalog. As books are entered into the new system, they receive a unique barcode and a spine label that carries the appropriate call numbers.

While this project is underway, you will find that books with spine labels are now appearing in the proper catalog sequence on the shelves. Books that have not yet been processed are still in the former geographical sections, but they have been physically moved. So please ask a volunteer at the library to help you find the resource that you need.

The shelf-list on the Fiske website will continue to be maintained (and eventually will also carry the call numbers), so you can identify which books we hold in the library.

Gary A. Zimmerman

## 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](mailto: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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Mary Stevenson  
Gary A. Zimmerman

### 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

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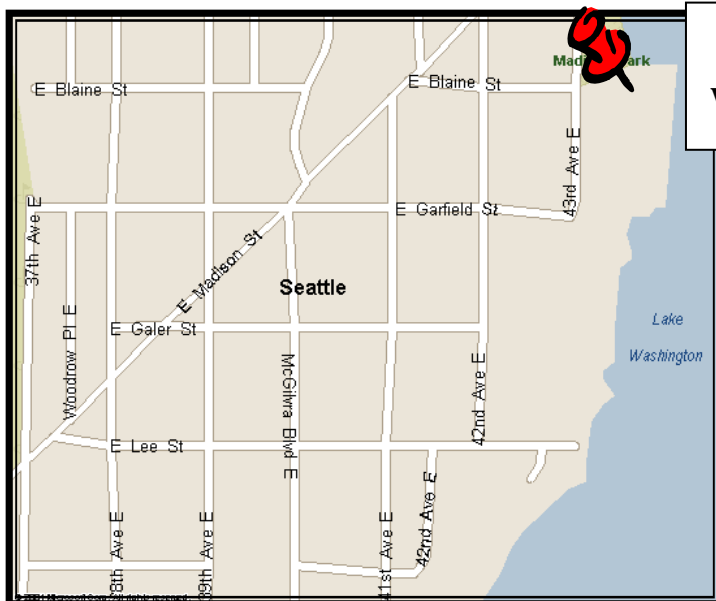


Fiske Genealogical Foundation  
1644 43rd Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98112-3222

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SEATTLE WA  
PERMIT NO. 1210

## 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.