

# FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



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## NEVER FORGET THE LOCAL LIBRARIAN

It seems like genealogical research is becoming tied to what can be found in on-line databases or mined from old newsgroups, e-mail exchanges, or purchased from mega-sites like ancestry.com. Researchers look diligently for clues in the on-line public access catalogs and occasionally seek a new resource through inter-library loan. All of these efforts can be done from home, in the comfort of your den or study, with a few key strokes on your computer keyboard.

If the previous paragraph describes how you are spending your research time to a large extent, you may be missing some important pathways around your roadblocks. One of those paths would be to consult with a librarian in the local town library where your ancestral family lived.

Small libraries often have a lot that does not show up in an on-line catalog. This additional material may be in the form of locally developed finding aids. It may be found in the myriad of clipping files, stored pamphlets, and vertical files with correspondence about specific families. There may be scrapbooks and photographs that have been given to the local library. Often these resources are only available by making a re-

quest to the responsible librarian in that specific library. (Even branch libraries in large regional “library systems” may have considerable amounts of useful material that is unique to that branch and that has never gone through the central cataloguing process.)

Often one single librarian on the staff of a small facility will assume the responsibility for the historical materials in the collection. That is the person you want to identify and to whom you want to address your questions. That may not be the person on the reference desk when you first wander into a small library, so you have to make a specific inquiry as to which person has the most knowledge about local families and the history of the district. I find that such a librarian also has close ties to the local genealogical societies and to the local historical societies, so that referrals can be made to individual groups or persons who may be working on problems similar to your own research.

Don't ask the local librarian to do a lot of research for you. They don't have the time or the energy to do your work. If you ask short, specific questions that involve a short, simple look-up and that deals with the holdings of that particular library, you should get a welcoming re-

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## NEVER FORGET THE LOCAL LIBRARIAN

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ception. If you are too far away from a local library of interest to you, ask your question of the librarian, but then ask if they can refer you to a local researcher in that area who could be hired to be your eyes and feet for you.

Local librarians are proud of their collections and they want to share the knowledge that they have in their care. They will welcome your interest, but treat them with kindness and cordiality. You will be rewarded when they help you find the treasures buried in their vaults.

Good hunting. Oh yes, it is permissible to use the computer to locate the various libraries to be found in a distant locality. That is just a smart research technique!

Gary A. Zimmerman

## CLASS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Would you enjoy learning to use the new Fiske OCLC WorldCat to locate books? A class for curious clients, persons currently volunteering, or for those who think they might enjoy helping out for a shift just a day or so a month at the Fiske Library will be offered on Wednesday, September 19 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. This first class will focus on locating books on the shelves, and on putting them away again, using the OCLC and the Library of Congress numbering system. Future classes will be scheduled as the need arises.

## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS DATABASE

If you are doing research on early settlers of the Pacific Northwest you will want to check out the digital collections of the University of Washington Libraries at <http://content.lib.washington.edu/index.html>.

The advanced search link at the top of the home page is a great entry point to all of the collections. Insert the name of a person or a place and see what is offered. The collection list itself does not give enough information, but the search engine quickly covers the material attached to each photograph and manuscript. It does well for searching early copies of territorial newspapers as well.



## FISKE BOARD

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## HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OFFER NEW RESOURCES ON IMMIGRATION TO USA



The libraries at Harvard University have mounted an excellent collection of books, maps and photographs that document voluntary immigration to the United States from 1789 to 1930. Over 1800 books and pamphlets, 9000 photographs, 200 maps and 13,000 pages of manuscript materials are offered. You'll find the collection begins at

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/>.

If you begin with the “timeline” link on the left side of the home page, you will get an excellent summary of how the immigrant stream varied through the 19th and 20th Centuries and how changing Congressional legislation responded to political concerns. If you move on to the “browse the collection” link, you can quickly scan the hundreds of titles to find something of interest to your own research plan.

Finally, when you have a sense of the scope of the resource, you can begin doing specific searches, beginning with the “search the collection link”. On the search page you can limit your hunt to the card catalog descriptors on a given topic or you can do a “full text” search that quickly looks through all 1800 books and pamphlets. It is a powerful tool! If you make the parameters too broad or try to cover all of the books and the photographs in one search, it takes a long time to get a result.

A search on “German” in the title (not the full text search) generated 49 separate entries, with both German and English titles. They ranged from:

- An 1872 book on the history of German settlements in North Carolina, to

- Rupp’s great collection of 30,000 names of German immigrants to Pennsylvania from 1727-1776 with the names of the ships by which they arrived, to
- Chamber’s 1895 book on the early German settlers of New Jersey (with their history, churches and genealogies), to
- The settlement of the German coast of Louisiana and the Creoles of German descent to
- The Germans in Texas: a study in immigration, to
- German Settlers and German settlements in Indiana.

Similar searches for the word “Italian” in the title yielded 21 titles, for “Norwegian”, five titles, for “Hungarian,” two titles, for “Irish,” 38 titles, but for “Scots-Irish,” there were no titles returned.

Searching the full text of the books in the collection can be useful. A search for the name of a county, like “Columbiana” in Ohio, yield 15 titles, many of which were about German immigrants who settled in eastern Ohio. A search for a surname can also produce some useful titles. Note that a common search term may result in multiple hits within one book so the number of individual titles returned may be less the total number of hits.

If this immigration resource proves helpful, you might want to explore Harvard’s wide scope in its Open Collections Program at <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu> where they have developed a similar grouping of texts and photographs on the subject of Women Working, 1800-1930. That collection is even larger than the Immigration collection!

## FISKE LIBRARY—RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### New York

- History of Presbyterian Church at Cherry Valley NY (pub 1876)
- Onondaga County NY Gazetteer & Business Directory 1868-9

### Midwest

- Family Maps of Winnebago County IL
- History of Dubuque County IA – biography and reminiscence

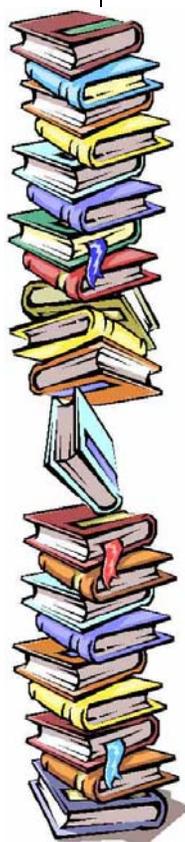
### South

- Formation of North Carolina Counties 1663-1943
- Natchez MS – An illustrated history
- Sacred to the memory of the Ancestors of Russell County AL

### Pacific Northwest

- Hidden Past: exploration of Eastside history (King Co WA)
- Hillgrove Cemetery Records (King Co WA)
- Historic Context and Cold War Context of Yakima Training Center (Yakima Co WA)
- History of St John's Lodge No 9, F&AM, Seattle
- Irish Seattle
- Little History of Bothell, WA
- Orphan Road – The railroad comes to Seattle 1853-1911
- Pictorial History of the State of Washington (1937)
- Pioneering God's County: history of the [Episcopal] Diocese of Olympia 1853-1967
- Renton: the first 100 years 1901-1902
- Seattle – An Asahel Curtis Portfolio

- Seattle – Past to Present
- Seattle's Fremont
- Seattle's Green Lake
- Seattle's Ravenna Neighborhood
- Sons of the Profits – The Seattle Story 1851-1891
- WPA Checklist of Oregon Counties and their records (1937)



### Europe

- Farm histories of Gjerpen (Skien, Norway)
- Journal, Dromore Historical Group (County Down, North Ireland)
- Well-Heeled: the story of the Public Benefit Boot Company (England)

### Genealogies

- Ancestors and Descendants of Stephen Poe Neal, 1822=1881
- Bennington Family (originally in Harford County, MD)
- Chillingworth Family History
- Compiler's lineage beginning with John Wood (Rehoboth MA 1743)
- Descendants of Solomon Barton of Dutchess Co., N.Y. and Monkton, Vt.
- Descendants of some Wilkes County Adams (Letcher County, KY)
- Dorthea's Journey: Norwegian Pioneer Life/ Sorensen & Sunde Families
- Elmer-Elmore Genealogy 1632-1899 (Braintree ENG and Hartford CT)
- Genealogical Investigation of Ancestors, Ray Hamilton Hutton & Helen Louise Blaine (3 volumes)
- Genealogy of the Cunningham, Knox, Gibson, Borders and Ewing Families

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## FISKE LIBRARY—RECENT ACQUISITIONS

(Continued from page 4)

- Geschichte der Familie Molineus (reprint of 1884 German with 1992 English translation)
- History of the Dewey Family: Biographical Portrait of Suel & Minerva Dewey
- Ingersoll Family in America 1629-1925 (Salem MA, Westfield MA, Long Island NY)
- Loftis and descendants of Laban Loftis
- Mayflower Ancestry of Theron Tilden Pond
- MX World: newsletter of the International Molyneux Family Association (complete run to date, over 21 years)
- Newsletter, Magny Families association
- Some descendants of Leonard Branson
- Sorensen-Kongsgaarden Family History, 1694-2000
- The Fortineux-Fortinet Family in America
- The Skott Family

### Reference

- Roadmaster 2007 Standard Road Atlas (US, Canada, Mexico)
- The American West – Year by Year
- Tracing your ancestors – an illustrated guide
- Washington Territory (history by Robert Ficken)

### Thanks to our Recent Book Donors!

The Fiske Library acknowledges the valuable contributions of the following donors who have offered books and archival materials:

Helen Barton  
 Betty Bennett  
 Eldon Bennett  
 Carolyn Blount  
 Family History Library  
 Don Howard  
 Margaret Jenkins  
 Karl Kumm  
 Georgeanne Malowney  
 Marie Spearman  
 Dorothy Sprague  
 Mary Stevenson  
 Carlidine Van Allen, and  
 Gary A Zimmerman



# CANADIAN COUNTY ATLAS PROJECT

Over the past nine years, McGill University in Montreal has published on-line 43 atlases for the province of Ontario. The maps are accompanied by a searchable database of property owners' names which appear on the township maps in each county atlas. The project also has scanned the township maps, portraits and properties with direct links from the property owners' names in the database.

The website at:

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas/> offers convenient access to the search engine and includes considerable background material on how the land in Ontario has been laid out and surveyed. You can search for either the name of a landowner or for a map of a specific township. People who lived in towns or urban settlements probably will not show up.

A township is usually rectangular in shape, unless it borders a river or lake shore. The township is divided into concessions. Each concession is a strip of land 1 and ¼ mile wide, usually running across the width of the township or the height of the township. These concessions, which can run in any direction, are usually separated by a road. Concessions are further divided into lots, which usually run parallel to the road. The original surveys were for 200 acres per lot, but they could be subsequently divided into parcels of 100 acres. (See the McGill website for more details.)

There were two types of county atlas published in the late 19th Century – those by private companies, seeking local families to sponsor the work and then to receive biographical sketches and drawings of their farm included in the finish product; and those done as supplements to the Dominion of Canada's Illustrated Atlas. For some counties there is both a proprietary atlas and a Dominion supplement atlas. The proprietary atlas has the

land owners' names marked on the appropriate lots in the township maps; the Dominion supplements do not show that information.

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OPEN BOARD MEETING FOR ALL FISKE  
LIBRARY USERS  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH  
12:30-1:30 PM  
FOLLOWING FIRST FALL CLASS

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The number of books in the Fiske Genealogical Library has tripled from 4800 to over 12,000 in the eleven years since Arthur Fiske died.

Come to an open meeting of the Fiske Board for all Fiske Library users scheduled following the first class on Wednesday, September 26. The meeting will begin 1/2 hour after the class lecture ends, or about 12:30 pm. You can browse the shelves in the completed New England region and check progress for the Mid Atlantic States. The Board will review progress on the new catalog project as well as describe some mid-course corrections to enhance the utility of the Library.

We'll show you how books in the Fiske Library can be found from anywhere in the world! The new spine labels for every book revealing its exact position on the shelves will be demonstrated and you can gain hands on experience about the process.



## WHAT'S NEW IN NEW ENGLAND?

Come to the Fiske Library on October 4th for a full day with speakers from the New England Historic Genealogical Society to hear about latest developments in doing family research in New England. D. Brenton Simons, Executive Director of NEHGS and Christopher Child, genealogist for the Newbury Street Press, will be the featured speakers. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the seminar program will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Brenton Simons will lead off with a short presentation of what is new at NEHGS in Boston and Christopher Child will give a short synopsis of New England Resources for the genealogist. After a short break, there will be a presentation on research methods for families in Colonial Boston by Brenton Simons.

In the afternoon, Christopher Child will discuss the growing use of DNA testing in family research and then present a summary of how to approach the special research needs of hereditary and lineage societies.

Christopher Child will be available on the morning following the seminar for private, half-hour consultations to assist persons with specific roadblocks in their New England research. These sessions are available on a first requested basis until his available time is filled. (He is limited by his travel schedule on Friday, October 5th.)

D Brenton Simons is president and CEO of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, with over thirteen years of service at NEHGS. He was involved in the development of the Society's website at [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org), the member publication *New England Ancestors*, and the development of the NEHGS publishing house, the Newbury Street Press.

Christopher Child is a professional genealogist for the Newbury Street Press with interests in southern New England families, especially Connecticut, in the ancestry of notable figures, in the growing importance of genetics for genealogy, and in African-American and Native American genealogy.

The cost of the Thursday seminar is \$35, payable to the Fiske Genealogy Library. (Annual patrons of the Fiske Library receive a \$10 discount.) The consultations on Friday with Christopher Child are \$25 per half-hour session. Advance reservations are suggested as space is limited. There is a convenient registration form on the Fiske Library website at

[www.fiskelibrary.org/NEHGS07/default.htm](http://www.fiskelibrary.org/NEHGS07/default.htm)

or you can call the library to make a reservation at 206-328-2716. There will be a midday break for lunch at any of more than a dozen restaurants within a four block radius of the Fiske Library.



D. Brenton Simons



Christopher Child



## 2007—FALL CLASSES AT FISKE

Fall 2007	Topic	Instructor
26 September	Colonial Chesapeake Migration, History and Genealogy	Gary Zimmerman
3 October	Virginia & West Virginia Genealogy	Gary Zimmerman
10 October	Church Records	Ida McCormack
17 October	Cemeteries On-Line	David Ault
24 October	Washington State Genealogy Research	Gary Zimmerman
31 October	Preserving and storage of family records	Sarah Nelson
7 November	Military Records: War of 1812	Karl Kumm
14 November	King County Archive (See Article)	Off-Site Visit
21 November	Thanksgiving Holiday	
28 November	Brick Walls Workshop	Gary Zimmerman
5 December	Preparation for Salt Lake	Betty Kay Anderson

*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 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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Fiske class will visit the King County Archives during the first week of November 2007. Since this is a very small facility, no more than three genealogists can research at one time. If you are interested, please pre-register so that a time block can be assigned to you. A folder will be provided at the Fiske Library for registration. If you'd like additional information on the archive, go to their web site at:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/archives.htm>

Betty Kay Anderson reports that the annual research trip to Salt Lake City is FULL. She has 46 people under deposit for the trip, which goes from Wednesday January 9 to Saturday January 19, 2008.

Because this trip is so very popular, Betty Kay accepts sign-ups in the order she receives the per person deposit. As a matter of fact, several of the 2007 participants told their spouses not to come to the airport to pick them up if they didn't bring next year's deposit with them.

## 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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**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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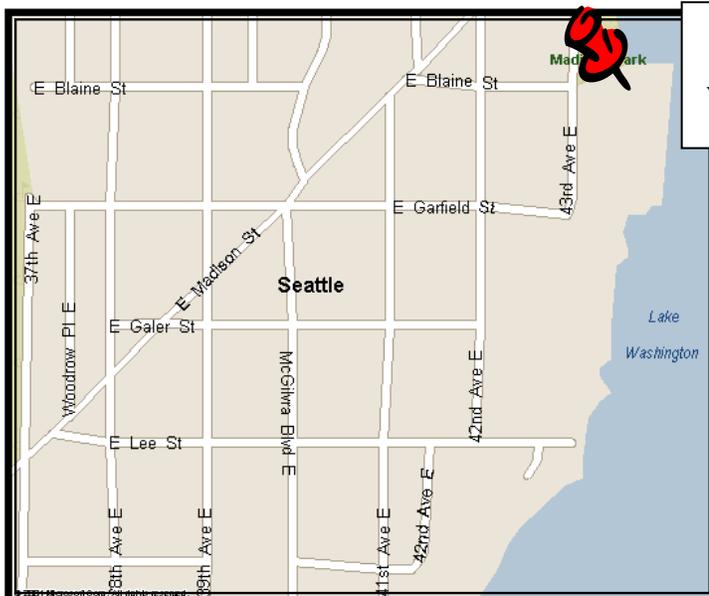


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## HOW TO FIND US!



**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.