

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



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DO THE GRANDCHILDREN REALLY CARE.....?

When your grandchildren don't show any interest in your efforts at family history research, what will happen to your files of facts and figures about their lineage after you are gone?

Several years ago, (Fiske Newsletter, December 2005, pg 1), I suggested that you leave written instructions in your will about where the research notes and accumulated files are located and to whom they should be given. Finding a genealogical library to receive them was the suggestion in that article.

The Fiske Library continues to receive estate collections of genealogical research materials. There are things that the original donor can do to make their collection much more user friendly and appealing to a potential recipient. You know your collection well because you are familiar with the family that you are researching. It is very helpful to have a complete family chart or GEDCOM file accompany the collection to the repository. The processing of the collection will be much more effective so that others can use these resources if the librarian has a birds-eye view of the family relationships in the collection.

The library will create one or more finding aids specific to a donated collection. First, a general inventory is prepared that identifies published materials and makes a count of boxes and notebooks. The next level is the production of a list of individual folders in each box with the titles given by the original researcher. A complete finding aid will eventually be made that identifies individual documents in each folder. When completed the finding aids will be added to the collection in storage and a copy made available in digital format for easy review. A future patron should be able to select a specific folder or document in a specific folder for examination for research purposes.

Photographs are often donated in these collections without sufficient information to identify the subject. It is very helpful if the original donor can identify the subjects, the date of the photo, and the location where the picture was taken. This information should be with a picture, but not written on the picture if that can be avoided.

Books and published materials in the collection may well be cataloged and melded into the main library collection,

(Continued on page 2)

DO THE GRANDCHILDREN REALLY CARE.....?

(Continued from page 1)

with suitable acknowledgment of the donor of the work.

Generally, donated work files are not available for open browsing, but are accessed through the finding aids and retrieved by a library worker and returned to their original location after use. The finding aids become the key to locating the prior work that has been done.

It is well to make arrangements in advance with a future repository of your work files. The library may have to say "no" to a proposed contribution if the collection is too scattered in its organization. On the other hand, a well-organized corpus of work can be the source of successful connections for many researchers in the years to come.

If you are contemplating the future disposition of your genealogical research, talk to the Fiske Library!

FISKE BOARDMEMBERS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Gary A. Zimmerman |
| Director | Lou Daly |
| Treasurer | Ann Owens |
| Secretary | Carolyn Blount |
| Technology Director | David Brazier |

DANISH COLLECTIONS AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

If you are of Danish descent, you might find a new summary of the Danish collections at the Library of Congress (LOC) to be of interest. It was posted on the LOC website in December 2007 and can be read at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/coll/dan.html>.

There are about 80,000 titles from or about Denmark in the library and about 75% of them are in Danish. Only 15% are in English and the remaining ten percent are in German, Swedish and other languages. Through the 1990's, the Library was acquiring about 650 monographs per year for its Danish collection. Currently there are more than 125 books that deal specifically with the subjects of Danes in the United States and Danish-Americans. The Library also holds a nearly complete run of the Danish Historical Association's journal from 1840 to the early 2000's.

The Local History and Genealogy Room at the LOC offers an on-line bibliographic guide for learning more about Danish immigration to America at http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/danishguides.html. Similar bibliographies are also available on Danes in America and on Scandinavian Emigration in general.

The European Reading Room offers parallel materials for other European countries. There are special guides for their Swedish, Icelandic, German, British and Irish, and Italian collections. Start at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/>.

It is easy to access the catalog for the Library of Congress at www.loc.gov and then search for subjects or titles of interest to your research. Even if you can't get to Washington, DC, the catalog can offer you details of published books that you may be able to find elsewhere through inter-library loan.

Gary A. Zimmerman

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES OFFERS DIGITAL IMAGES OF COMMONWEALTH LAND RECORDS

OCLC Project Passes
5300

The Pennsylvania State Archives website at www.phmc.state.pa.us offers a wealth of new images of documents from the Commonwealth Land Office. These additions include warrant registers (1733-1957), patent indexes (1684-1957) and the Philadelphia Old Rights index. This is an important resource if your ancestors acquired land directly from the Penn family when they arrived in Pennsylvania.

From the home page select the “research” button on the left side of the page. (The internet address shown in the previous paragraph will transfer you to the home page of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with a much longer URL.) When you reach the Research Resources page, look at the list of databases on the left hand side of that page and select “Land Records.” You are now at a table of “scanned land records, viewable online.” Below that table of available records is a short introduction of how to search these databases and how to prepare to do the research on this site.

You usually need to know the full name of the land purchaser, the applicant, the warrantee or the patentee, the county in which the land was owned, and the approximate date of the transaction. Since you are dealing with land records, you will not find extensive genealogical information, but these records are a great way to document the presence of a particular person in a specific place and at given time.

The five documents generated by the acquisition of land from the Penn Proprietary were the application, the warrant, the survey, the return, and the patent. The application was a request for a warrant to have a survey made. The warrant was a certificate authorizing a survey for a tract of land and it initiated title of the property and became a basis for legal settlement, but it did not confer full ownership rights to the land.

By the end of February, a dedicated group of Fiske volunteers had processed more than 5300 titles from the Fiske Genealogy Library into the WorldCat catalog. All of the books for New England and the mid-Atlantic states have been entered, as have the biographies, general reference, history, and Pacific Northwest collections. Virginia is almost completed, leaving only the sides of two aisles to finish. The volunteers hope to have the books completed by the beginning of summer and will then begin entering journals and cataloging the notebook collection.

Users can now search for holdings using FirstSearch or www.worldcat.org or use a link from the Fiske Library home page at www.fiskelibrary.org. You can search by title, author, or subject. Visitors to the library can utilize the numbers on the new spine labels to more easily locate and return the books to the proper shelf location. Interlibrary loan is another new service now available to users across the country. An inventory of library materials is a beneficial by-product of the project.

The Wednesday night team is led by Marjorie Reeves and the Thursday night team consists of Kathryn Allahyari, Carolyn Blount, Carol Matzke and Judy Mitchell. David Brazier has guided the process and has been handling inter-library loans while Gary Zimmerman has solved many classification challenges. Carlidine Van Allen has been a tremendous help in the entire interim book moving, and Eldon Davis has kept stack labels up-to-date during the year-and-a half project.

A Library Committee comprised of Kathryn Allahyari, David Brazier, Mary Peters and Gary Zimmerman will decide the local holding location of those history and religion books which, as classified by the Library of Congress, would not be in the best location for genealogical research purposes.

FISKE LIBRARY—RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Not all of the books and archival materials received by the library have been processed and made available for research. These items will appear on a future list with acknowledgment of their kind donors.

New England

- Barkhamstead CT and its centennial 1879
- Catalog of Barkhamstead men who served in various wars 1775-1865
- Some records of Colchester CT 1686-1787
- The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1634 vols 1-5
- Quaker Nantucket
- Register (NEHGS) Index of persons, vols 1-50
- Register (NEHGS) Index of subjects and Index of Places, vols 1-50

Middle Atlantic and South

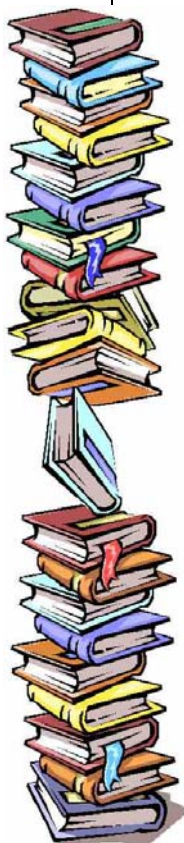
- As We Were: the story of old Elizabethtown (NJ)
- Historic Huntsville (AL)
- True Tales of Old Madison County (AL)
- Wayne County (TN) Historian

Midwest

- Every name index to *History of Berrien and Van Buren Counties (MI)* **
- History of Jerseyville, Illinois 1822-1901
- *Minnesota Genealogical Journal*
- New Harmony, Indiana
- Ozar'kin: the people who settled the Missouri Ozarks
- History of Washington County, Ohio

Pacific Northwest

- Place Names of Washington
- Record of Sultan Cemetery (Sultan WA) *
- Rosario Yesterdays (WA)



- Skid Road: Informal portrait of Seattle

Europe

- Even more Palatine Families (3 vols)
- Gaelic and Gaelicised Ireland in the Middle Ages
- List of Parishes in Boyd's Index
- Out of Ireland: the story of Irish Emigration to America
- Westmeath: as others saw it (Ireland)

Genealogies

- Clan MacBean Register
- American Ancestry of Julia Hutchinson
- American Ancestry of Edward Mason Knight
- Ancestral Lines from Maine to Virginia (57 families)
- History of Alfred and Elizabeth Robinson Ward

Reference

- Opportunity and Challenge: the story of the Bureau of Land Management

Our sincere thanks to the following donors:

Alvy Ray Smith
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 Friends of the Fiske Foundation
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 Helen Lewis
 Ingrid Philbrick
 Karl Kumm
 Marjorie Reeves
 Mary M Ferm
 Mary Peters
 Maureen MacDonald
 Snohomish Stake FHC

IRISH NATIONAL ARCHIVES REQUESTING FEEDBACK

The National Archives of Ireland has digitized the 1911 census for Dublin city and county and made it available for searching on internet at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/>. In response to a number of comments from users, the Archives have created a way to inform the staff of erroneous names in the index. They have requested users to send feedback on an on-line error transcription form. When the suggestions have been verified, corrections will be made in the database.

The Irish census is somewhat unique – since the Archives holds the entire original census sheets with the head of household signatures on the reverse of the questionnaire. There was never any transcribing onto large sheets for use by the government – only the original sheets were used for analysis. Ireland has only the 1901 and 1911 census records available for public scrutiny and it is only the Dublin Country records that are posted on the internet.

DAVID A AULT, PHD

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Fiske Library instructor David Ault, who died unexpectedly on March 24th at the age of 67. He was a native of Wenatchee, but grew up in Seattle.

With graduate degrees in mathematics and computer science, David taught many people how to better use computers in their genealogical research. He was an active participant in the genealogy community in western Washington and his absence leaves a void that will not be filled easily.

WHAT'S NEW AT ANCESTRY.COM?

Even if you are not a subscriber to ancestry.com, you can quickly check what new databases have been added to their website at not charge. Go to the home page at www.ancestry.com and scan along the top bar for the tab that says “search.” On the Search page, scroll down to the bottom of the long box on the right that is labeled “Browse records” near the top and ends with a section on “Other Resources.” The two right-justified entries at the bottom of that box say “list all databases” and “recent website additions.”

Clicking on “recent website additions” takes you to a new page entitled “What’s New on ancestry.com.” A featured new database will be at the top center of the page and then there will be a section entitled “Historical Records.” Scroll down through that section and look for a link entitled “View all recent additions.” That takes you to the complete list of recent additions to the website and the date when they were first mounted for public use. This will list all entries for the past month. From here you can decide if you need to subscribe or go to a library where there is public access to the website.

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 |
| Sunday | 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm |

NEW RESOURCES FOR WEST JERSEY RESEARCH

If your family history research crosses West Jersey at any point, you will want to check out the West Jersey History Project at www.westjerseyhistory.org which is sponsored by the West Jersey History Roundtable. Historical research by local residents in West Jersey goes back to the early 19th Century, and there has been a continuous stream of contributors, mostly centered around the Gloucester County Historical Society. The current research is an outgrowth of bi-centennial activities in New Jersey in 1976. The West Jersey History Project's goal is to create a "regional history website that is second to none, useful to all and that continues a proud tradition of historical research into the new century."

Genealogists will find useful material in the section on documents, with county records, index to "road returns," township minutes, and digital copies of diaries and personal letter books already available for use. More records are being added as they are prepared for internet use.

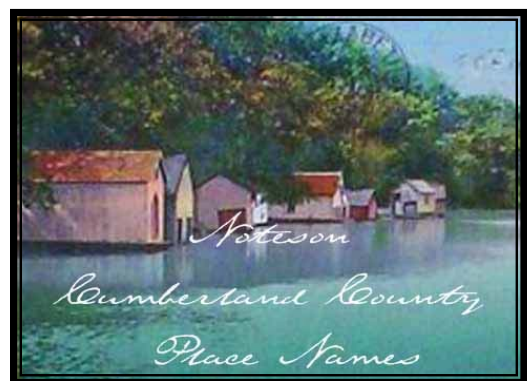
The section on "images" offers a good selection of contemporary pictures of historic Quaker meeting houses, with textual commentary about each meeting. There also are links to other websites with complementary images of other Quaker meeting houses. This section also offers a collection of some 500 postcard images of West Jersey structures and vistas, organized by county.

The map section offers a good selection of high quality maps from early in New Jersey history. There also is a series of county maps from the mid-19th Century that were developed at Rutgers University, some of which show the names of individual farm owners in the late 1840's and township boundaries are easily discerned. The group recently added a series of maps from Germany showing Hessian movements in New Jersey during the American Revolution.

A section on "Surveys" has a few images from original surveyor notes, although the quality is not as high as for the maps. It is still possible to get ownership histories from the surveyor's notes for the parcels in question – sort of like modern title histories – in which consecutive purchase and sale agreements are summarized.

The section of digitized books also offers a lot of useful information. The colonial records include a number of West Jersey land transactions. An outline for a similar project for East Jersey land records is on the website, but the actual details have not been posted yet.

At the lower left corner of the home page for this site is a search engine that looks only at the documents on this website. A search for the surname "Heritage" quickly finds a list of 14 hits, including a series of deed record transcriptions, specific page references in digitized books and individual documents.



Gary A. Zimmerman

WAS YOUR ANCESTOR A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT?

There is a lot of interest in determining whether or not one's ancestor actually supported the patriot cause during the American Revolution. For some, that is the first step to seeking membership in a lineage organization.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution maintains a free service at http://www.dar.org/natsociety/pi_lookup.cfm where you can see if your research information can be matched with a patriot who has already been accepted by the Society in support of someone else's application for membership. You will find a brief description of the program and a form to complete for sending electronically to the DAR Library in Washington DC. A volunteer will do the research and send you an e-mail indicating if your ancestor is already in the DAR files. If the response is positive, it will also indicate which is the best file from a previous member's research and how to get details for your own application.

The Sons of the American Revolution has a similar service at their headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. They describe their databases at their website, found at www.rsar.org/rosters/findpatr.htm.

The SAR has over 100,000 patriots and several times that number of their descendants in their Patriot Index. The DAR index has over 100,000 names in their patriot index, but there are a lot of entries in the DAR index that do not show up in the SAR index and vice versa! The SAR also has a second index which identifies Revolutionary War Graves, again with over 100,000 entries, but the data is based on cemetery records and often is not accompanied by primary documents to proof the

nature of the patriotic service. The SAR search results will label a response, in the quality field, as "not evaluated" if a grave registration cannot be matched to proven patriotic service. The SAR has combined their two databases, with over 200,000 total entries, for a free searchable database.

The SAR database is continually going through further analysis. After the initial merger, there were about 13,000 names with common birth and death dates that suggestion duplicate entries for the same person. Those names are being re-searched and the database will be purged of duplicate entries where the evidence supports that step.



The DAR accepts documentable civilian service for inclusion in their Patriot Index and it has been estimated that about 20% of the patriots documents for DAR applications had non-military patriotic service. The Veterans Administration had a study that estimated 217,000 people had military duty on the patriot side during the Revolutionary War.

A search of the Patriot Grave Index at SAR for John Zimmerman returns four hits, three of which are acceptable for SAR membership citation and one of which has been "not evaluated". Two of the entries that are acceptable have the same birth and death dates and are the same person – my Zimmerman ancestor six generations back.

The search in the DAR Index is submitted electronically and you are given a reference code which can be used to check on the status of your request.

Gary A Zimmerman



2008 - SPRING CLASSES AT FISKE

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.

| Spring 2008 | Topic | Instructor |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| 9 April | Connecticut | Gary Zimmerman |
| 16 April | Northwest Regional Archive, Bellingham | Archive Site Visit |
| 23 April | Doing a surname search on your computer | Gary Zimmerman |
| 30 April | Assessment & Tax Records | Karl Kumm |
| 7 May | North and South Carolina | Gary Zimmerman |
| 14 May | New Jersey and Delaware | Gary Zimmerman |
| 21 May | Court Records | Karen Sipe |
| 28 May | Using NARA databases and catalog | Carol Buswell |
| 4 June | California | Gary Zimmerman |
| 11 June | Naturalization | Tracy Vasquez |

The spring trimester will start with a trip to the Northwest Branch of the State Archive in Bellingham. This facility archives records from seven counties: Clallam, Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom. We will have a van to pool transportation. Please make a reservation for the trip with an e-mail to Karl Kumm or contact with Fiske Library. We expect to spend about four and a half hours at the facility. A description of the Washington State Archives is found online at Northwest Archive site. You can access the state archive search engine and search for regional archive holdings. Then either request the archivists Jeff Copher to pull records or contact Karl Kumm at the above e-mail address. Jeff Copher is the head archivist in Bellingham and will monitor email requests.

CONTACTS:

Northwest Regional Archive URL < www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/archives_northwest.aspx >

Washington State Archives Search URL < www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/search.aspx >

Jeff Copher e-mail < research@secstate.wa.gov >

Karl Kumm e-mail < k.kumm@comcast.net >

It is imperative to plan your research before you go to state archives. In Washington, they tend to have limited space and a small staff. Your visit will be much more rewarding with preparation. If you need help, come to the Fiske Library and we will help you prepare. Come join us.

Outside speakers include Karen Sipe, Tracy Vasquez and Carol Buswell. **Karen Sipe** has had many years of experience as a genealogical researcher. She is an expert on court records and plans a class with lots of interaction among researchers. **Tracy Vasquez** is an archivist at the Sand Point national archives. She will focus on the naturalization process and how to use NARA facilities to begin your search. **Carol Buswell**, Educational Coordinator at Sand Point, will teach us how to use NARA databases and how to uncover the resources at any national archive facility using ARC (Archive Research Catalog).

Assessment and Tax Records will be examined by Karl Kumm. He will share some examples and show unusual ways that analysis leads to additional information about targeted families.

Gary Zimmerman will also continue classes on the following states: Connecticut, North and South Carolina, New Jersey and Delaware. He will also conduct a class on searching surnames on line.

So do mark your calendar and come to any class relevant to your research and family history.

Karl W. G. Kumm, Education Coordinator

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER AND USER INFORMATION

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Editor and Publisher

Moira E. Connor

moiraconnor@shaw.ca

Webmaster

David Brazier

Contributing Editors

Carolyn Blount

Karl Kumm

Gary A. Zimmerman

Production Director

Carolyn Blount

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION

USER FEES

Wednesday Seminar Series
(10 sessions) \$30.

Annual Library Card \$40.

Annual Couple Library Use \$60.

Annual Library Use
plus Full Year Seminar Series
(30 sessions) \$75

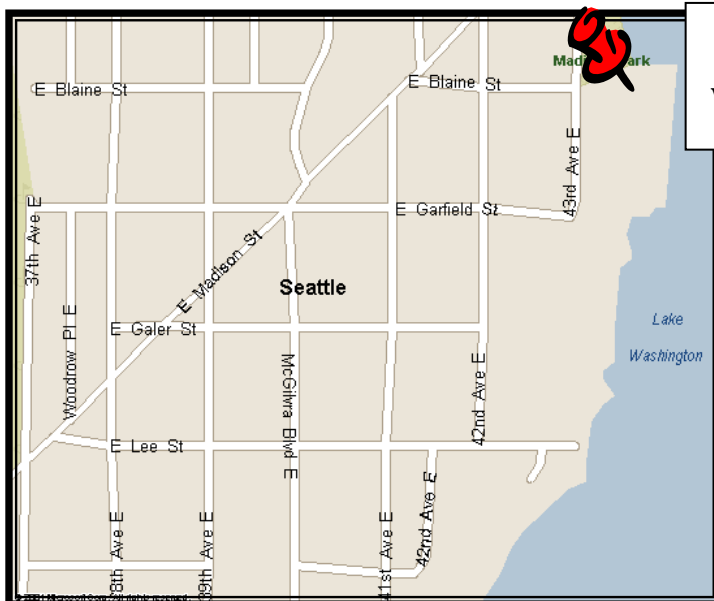


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1644 43rd Avenue East
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HOW TO FIND US!



**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.