



# FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION

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## DNA Can Solve Family Mysteries

Contributed by Carolyn Blount

DNA testing seemed so intriguing ten years or so ago that my husband and I jumped in with mitochondrial for me, and both mitochondrial (mtDNA) inherited from ones mother, grandmother, great grandmother, etc, and Y-DNA inherited only through the male line, tests for him, all at Family Tree DNA. We had results transferred to the Genographic program, through the National Geographic and waited---and waited! He was Haplogroup G, had one 12:12 match from Lebanon and many mtDNA matches from his mother's female line, but none with her surnames, and little else.

When the autosomal tests became available and prices competitive I purchased a kit from 23&me at \$99, luckily in the final week that health information was available. Autosomes are inherited randomly from both parents on the 22 pairs of chromosomes and are more useful in identifying common ancestors in the last 5-6 generations. It was a relief to learn that I carried neither the BRCA genes nor those for Alzheimer's.

Immediately a cousin, twice removed, was matched to me, and learning that he had been adopted at birth, I was able to identify his mother's family and provide a pedigree for him. He and his young family joined ours for dinner, an exciting connection that we maintain.

But it's not always that easy. I uploaded my own DNA to GEDmatch, tested also at Ancestry, and began the slow process of using spread sheets to compare pedigrees, chromosome locations and centimorgans (cM) with distant cousins. Centimorgans measure the distance between chromosome positions, so larger numbers reveal a closer relationship. We have almost pushed one line back another generation to one of two immigrants whom we now believe are brothers.

My husband, Richard Blount died in 2012 and neither we, nor his aunt, in 50 years of combined research, could trace the family back further than old Samuel Blount/Blunt married in Indiana about 1810. A son stated on the

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## DNA Can Solve Family Mysteries

(Continued from page 1)

census that Sam was born in Pennsylvania about 1784. FTDNA had enough DNA for an autosomal test, so I ordered that and gave his first cousin a kit for Christmas. Weeks later Dick had a match to a 90 year old Blount man traced back to a James Blount born about 1750 in Pasquotank County NC, identified as a 5th cousin, at 36 (cM). Soon there were two matches, and a month later, when his cousin's results were posted, he matched, on a different chromosome at 44 cM to descendants of the same James Blount! Since, I've encouraged another, more distant cousin, descended from yet another son of Samuel, to be tested; we eagerly await those results.

Is it worth it? Yes! New cousins, new ancestors, confirmation of research, greater understanding of DNA, the geographical location of the Blount family, and exciting discoveries still to make. Does DNA magically provide all the answers? No! But it combines with traditional research to help solve many challenges.



## NEW!!! DNA CLASSES AT THE FISKE

Contributed by Karen Sipe

We have set aside five Monday mornings to get together and discuss DNA and Genetic Genealogy beginning March 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Two hours have been allotted, 10:00 – 12:00 PM. The full schedule at this time is March 27, April 10 and 24, and May 15, 2017.

The first meeting will be a round table discussion based on your questions. This will allow us to drill down to your needs and time to establish the direction of further sessions. Bring your questions or better yet email them to me, [vaughny49@gmail.com](mailto:vaughny49@gmail.com), beforehand. I would love to have a chance to see what is puzzling you.

## FISKE BOARD

<b>President</b>	<b>Gary A. Zimmerman</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ann Owens</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Carolyn Blount</b>
<b>Technology Director</b>	<b>Dave Brazier</b>
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Karl Kumm Mary Peters Karen Sipe Larry Pike</b>

# FISKE SPRING LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Newly acquired books are processed by cataloguing, entering the Fiske Library holding information into WorldCat, and affixing ownership barcodes to bound books (on the back cover and on the title page).

Once they are finally on the shelving in the library, they appear in our "Recent Acquisitions" list in the Newsletter. Library of Congress call numbers [in square brackets below] will quickly lead you to the material on the shelf at the Fiske Library.

If the LC number is followed by PAWA, the book must be retrieved from other library collections within the building. Ask a volunteer for assistance.

## NEW ENGLAND

History of the town of Jefferson, New Hampshire 1773-1927 [F44.J4 E9 1927]

Vermont History vols 66-83 (1998-2015 partial run) [F46 .V55]

Vital Records of Boxford MA [F74.B54 B6 1905]

Historical collections of the Danvers Historical Society, vols 3-4 [F74.D2 D42]

Vital records of Great Barrington MA to the year 1850 [F74.G8 G65x]

Vital records of Shrewsbury MA to the end of the year 1849 [F74.S63 S6 1904]

History of Spencer, Massachusetts, from its earliest settlement to the year 1860: including a brief sketch of Leicester, to the year 1753 (2nd edition) [F74.S77 E60 1860]

Genealogical history with short sketches and family records of the early settlers of West Simbury, now Canton, Connecticut [F104.C2 B7 1856] (Rare Book Shelf, rebound)

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES

An historical account of the Presbyterian Church at Cherry Valley, New York [BX9211.C35 S9 1876] (re-bound)

History of the Mohawk valley, Gateway to the West, 1614-1925 v.4 biographical [F127.M55 H6 1925]

Hurley, New York – a brief history [F129.H95 D44 2009]

History of New Paltz (NY) and its old families from 1678 to 1820 [F129.N53 L4 1903]

Utica City Directory (NY) 1857-58 [F129.U8 .A18]

The early Dutch and Swedish settlers in New Jersey [F145.D9 L4 1964]

Historical and biographical annals of Berks County (PA) vols. I and II [F157.B3 M52 1909]

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# FISKE SPRING LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

## ATLANTIC SOUTH

Marriages of early Edgecombe County NC, 1733-1868 [F262.E2 W52 1958]

Cemetery records of St Johns County, Florida [F317.S18 S35 1992]

Alabama Notes, vols 3-4 [F325 .E54 1977]

Census of the city of Charleston (SC) for the year 1848 [HA730.C4 A2 1849] Rare Book Case

## MIDWEST

Weakley County (TN) Marriage records Vol II, Sep 4 1863 to 1878 [F443.W5 S65 1984]

Washington County (KY) Marriage bonds 1792-1809 [F457.W3 W37]

Panorama: a historical review of Czechs and Slovaks in the United States of America E184.B67 P35 1970]

The Czech Americans [E184.B67 S23 1999]

Roster of Revolutionary ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution, Vol 1 [E202.5 .I530 1976]

History of the Czechs in Chicago [F548.9.B67 B813 2011]

Pisek: the first century – a history of Pisek (ND) and its people [F644.P57 P57 1982]

## FAMILY GENEALOGIES

Chillingworth family history [CS71.C538 1936] (re-bound)

My Somerset County Heritage (PA) (Coughenour family) [CS71.C8523 2016]

Thomas Jones, Fort Nesk, Queen County, Long Island, 1695, and his descendants – the Floyd-Jones family [CS71.F632 1906] (re-bound)

Jonathan and Sarah Foster of Washington County (NY) and many of their lineal descendants 1735-2005 [CS71.F756 2007]

Genealogical history of the Kolb, Kulp or Culp family and its branches in America [CS71.K965 1895]

Lancaster family: a history of Thomas and Phebe Lancaster of Bucks County PA and their descendants from 1711 to 1902. Also a sketch on the origin of the name and family in England [CS71.L245 1902]

400 years with a New England Lewes-Lewis family [CS71.L675 1990]

The Willett families of North America [CS71.W713 1985]

Willett House Quarterly, vols 1, 4, and 5 [CS71.W713a]

Our family tree – Acadian, colonial, loyalist and Mayflower (Sisson) [CS90 .B633 1980]

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# FISKE SPRING LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

(Continued from page 4)

## AMERICAN WEST

The Czech pioneers of the Southwest [F395.B6 H8 1934]

Pioneer Pathways, vols 1, 2, and 4 (International Society, Daughters of Utah Pioneers) [F826 .D38 1998]

Wasco County (OR) marriages 1854-1900 [F875 .O7x 1978]

Polk County (OR) Pioneer sketches [F882 .P7 1927]

Images of America: Vanishing Seattle [F899.S443 H86 2006] [PAWA]

Society Blue Book – Tacoma and Olympia 1908-09 [F899.T2 A182]

Ox Teams to Jets [F899.T2 C76 1982]

## EUROPEAN RESOURCES

Genealogical and heraldic history of the colonial gentry [CS425 .B7]

German Census Records 1816-1916 / the when, where, and how of a valuable genealogical resource [CS614 .M56 2016]

Insula displaced persons assembly center [D809.G3 I47 2004]

Scottish battles [DA767 1990]

The Swiss Emigration Book, vol 1 [E184.S9 S37 1993]

## REFERENCE

Historical directory of the Reformed Church in America 1628-1965 [BX9507 .A55 1966]

Black Family Research: records of post-civil war Federal agencies at the National Archives (Reference paper 108) [CD3023 .A35 no 108]

Family History Expo (co-sponsored by Bellevue and Redmond stakes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, v. 16 [CS2 .B45 2016]

Index des Greffes des Notaires decedes (1645-1948) [F1005 .L35 1967]

## IT'S PARTY TIME



The Fiske Genealogical Foundation wants to show its appreciation to our patrons by having an End-of-the-Year party for all people interested in the Fiske Library.

It will be after the last class on June 21 at 1 P.M. at David Brazier's nearby condo outdoor pool and patio area [weather permitting]. If the weather does not permit, it will be at Pioneer Hall.

Do join us! Please R.S.V.P. to [editor@fiskelibrary.org](mailto:editor@fiskelibrary.org) or call (206) 328-2716.

## Always Ask –

Contributed by Karen Sipe

Do you have a question but don't know who to turn to? You have two choices:

1. Do not ask anyone
2. Ask somebody – anybody

Consider the proverbial wild goose chase. In this situation asking the wrong person might even be the right person, or they may direct you to someone else.

### **Let's look at an example of each.**

While working on an ancestor living in NYC in the 1850s, I wanted to find him on the 1855 New York State census. Naturally he was not listed in the online database. I also discovered the online databases were missing a couple of Enumeration Districts. Yep, they included the address of my ancestor. In my readings, I came across a man who seemed to be very involved with Germans and German research in NYC. So, I decided to send him an email to see if he knew whether or not the original copies of the census were available. Within minutes I had a response and not only learned the originals were available but where they were located and the missing EDs were included.

Faced with two choices:

1. Go to NYC – not possible right now.
2. Find a researcher.

As it happens I have a friend who is a professional researcher in New York. I turned to him asking if he would check the originals for me. Wow! He had an index for the missing EDs, and better yet he knew the missing pages were available through HathiTrust Digital Library at <https://www.hathitrust.org/>.

However, the person I wanted was indexed with the wrong page number, but I could read the sections in question page by page thanks to HathiTrust. The journey was well worth the effort. When I found my man, he had four daughters living with him. I had known nothing about these girls or even that there were daughters in the family. One quick question by chance to a stranger, a small journey, and four new family members, it was worthwhile.

The second example pertains to some very sketchy information. A tombstone, actually for the above-mentioned man was inscribed, not with words but abbreviations. The letters told of his birth place. The letters were not all legible so I had to do some guessing, but the town was clear, Coblenz Kingdom of Prussia Germany.

## Always Ask –

First, I took this information years ago, to Salt Lake City and discussed everything with one of the really great staff at the Family History Library international desk. I was given some ideas and one thought was the possibility there could be a military connection, but nothing more to follow up on. Resurrecting this issue, I thought hmm, Coblenz (Koblenz in German) why not contact their archives. Using an online translator, I wrote a couple of sentences asking if they spoke English and notified them about my lack of German. Again within a few days I had a response. My question and year old quandary was finally answered. My ancestor was born in Wetzlar, which was in the district of the administration of Koblenz. The letters on the tombstone were abbreviations for the civil jurisdiction of Wetzlar. The archivist also suggested I contact the Wetzlar archives and included a link.

A new contact, I used the same opening as before to address the language barrier. My research is moving forward. This time question is different. Question: Do you have birth records for the 1770s? Unfortunately, their birth records do not go back that far. But I wasn't done because they too sent a link to yet another archive. Their suggestion was to contact the Evangelical Archives serving the area of Wetzlar and included a link for me to pursue. As it turns out the Evangelical Archives potentially have the records I am hunting for. However, due to lack of staff to help with inquiries like this, I will have to visit Germany or hire a researcher.

This foray into a foreign land with a foreign language answered two questions, what the tombstone inscription meant and where the records I need are located.

Your success in obtaining answers to questions lies in posing your questions to someone – anyone. Do not worry about finding the RIGHT person or entity. Start the journey and follow the trail by asking someone.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD



The Fiske Genealogical Foundation Newsletter is undergoing some changes with this issue. Cindy Walton has decided to move to Oxnard, California, where she and her husband, Ken, (and their dog, Fremont,) will live on their newly acquired boat. For the past three years, Cindy has edited the Newsletter. Her attention to detail and her energy in getting a readable text have been greatly appreciated.

Beginning with this issue, Marjorie Jodoin takes on the editorial duties for the newsletter in addition to her present tasks with duplicate and surplus book and journal inventories. Marge is an experienced user of the Publisher software that makes compilation of our newsletter look so sharp.

## 137 Years of New York City History Is Digitized in City Directories

Contributed by Cindy Walton

New York City Library is digitizing its entire collection of New York City Directories from 1786 through 1923. They will be available free through the NYCL Digital Collections portal. The historic data recorded in city directories includes lists of the names/addresses of its residents, schools, courts, businesses, churches, police stations, courts and other government organizations. Also recorded are the names of individuals associated with those institutions, as far back as 1786. In addition, you will find the price of travel and postage, the kinds of occupations undertaken in the city, the layout of the streets, and the predicted sunrise and sunset. For this reason, the directories were often referred to as almanacs.

For more information about the NYC Directories online, go to [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org). Choose search and in the search box enter the key word "city directories". My search generated 431 results.

## Spring 2017 Education

Classes sponsored by the Fiske Genealogical Foundation are open to all. Most classes are held in the street-level room of Pioneer Hall, located in Seattle's Madison Park neighborhood. Tuition for all classes is \$5 individually. Annual passes to the Fiske Library are \$50, and can be enhanced to \$85/year, which includes all three quarters of Wednesday classes (30 classes), plus full use of the library and a subscription to the quarterly newsletter.

Please call the Fiske Genealogical Library at 206-328-2716 or visit <https://fiskelibrary.org> for further information.

## OUR APPRECIATION FOR BOOK DONATIONS

We appreciate the contributions by the following supporters of the Fiske Library. Since the last newsletter, donations have been catalogued and added to the collections on the shelves. There often is a lag between the date of the actual donation and the completion of the cataloguing, book repair, and placement in the active collection. Each of these titles may be located through the WorldCat catalog, available from the home page of the Fiske Library website.

Rosie Bodien Estate	Marie Spearman
Carolyn Blount	Mary Stoebuck
Clyde Irvin Coughenour, Jr	T.W. Turner
Margaret Ernest	Joan Wilson
Everett Family History Center	Gary A Zimmerman
Family History Library	Helen B Gorsuch
Carol Matzke	

## Thank you to our Patrons

Many thanks to our patrons for the monetary contributions made to the Fiske Library. We depend upon your support in our effort to continually make improvements to the library.





# SPRING 2017 EDUCATION

All classes are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

2017	Topic	Instructor	Location
Wednesday Mar 29	Review & Overview of Genealogy	Karen Sipe	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday April 5	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
Wednesday April 12	Making our computer work for you. Windows 10 and Other Operating Systems	David Brazier	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday April 19	DNA and Genealogy	Karen Sipe	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday April 26	GEDmatch & Ancestry.com DNA	Jo Bledsoe	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday May 3	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
Wednesday May 10	Methodology & Organization — Solving the Family Myth	Jill Morelli	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday May 17	City Directories	Mary Roddy	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday May 24	Naturalization: The Process and Research	Evelyn Roehl	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday May 31	Military Pension Records	Jim Johnson	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday June 7	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
Wednesday June 14	Newspaper Research	Karl Kumm	Pioneer Hall
Wednesday June 21	Solving a DNA Puzzle	Larry Pike Carolyn Blount	Pioneer Hall

## Other Educational Opportunities

2017	Topic	Instructor	Location
<b>Mondays</b> <b>10 A.M.-Noon</b> <b>March 27</b> <b>April 10</b> <b>April 24</b> <b>May 29</b>	DNA Problem Solving	Karen Sipe Jim Sipe	Pioneer Hall 1642 43rd Ave E Seattle, WA 98112
<b>Consultation about your computer problems.</b> Bring in your computer and let David Brazier help you better understand how you can improve your computer service.			
<b>Mondays</b> <b>1-3 P.M.</b> <b>May 29</b> <b>June 14</b>	Computer Problem Solving	David Brazier	Pioneer Hall
<b>Family Tree Interest Group</b>			
<b>Wednesdays</b> <b>7-9 P.M.</b> <b>April 12</b> <b>May 10</b> <b>June 14</b>	Family Tree Interest Group	Lou Daly David Brazier	Pioneer Hall
<b>Brick Walls Workshop</b> Offered the second Thursday of every month at the National Archive at 6125 Sand Point Way.			
<b>Thursdays</b> <b>10 A.M.—Noon</b> <b>April 13</b> <b>May 11</b> <b>June 15</b>	Brick Walls	Karen Sipe & NARA staff	NARA 6125 Sand Point Way #74 Bus

# FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

<b>Monday</b>	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:00 noon to 6:00 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	1:00 pm to 6:00 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>	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, 2nd & 4th Sunday of every month.

## DONATIONS ACCEPTED ONLINE

You can now make your donations online. Just go to our website at <https://fiskelibrary.org> and choose the donation button. Your donation is safe with our secure website and remember your donations are tax deductible.

## FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION PATRON AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation is a nonprofit service organization that provides genealogical training and resource materials.

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.

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**FISKE GENEALOGICAL  
FOUNDATION FEES**

Daily Use Fee \$5.

Annual Library Pass \$50.

Annual Family Pass \$70.

Wednesday Seminar Series

(10 sessions) \$35.

Annual Library Pass

plus Full Year Seminar Series

(30 sessions) \$85

Newsletter—Mail Subscription

\$6 for 4 Issues

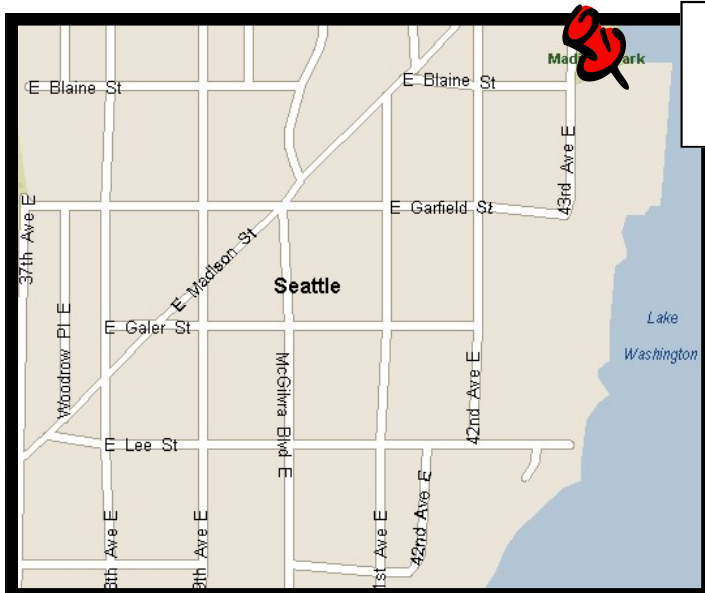


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## HOW TO FIND US!



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

- Drive east on E Madison Street to the third crosswalk after reduced speed zone of 25mph. The crosswalk has a yellow blinking light. A one-way street sign is on your right.
- Turn right and follow E Blaine Street to the end of the street.
- The Washington Pioneer Hall faces onto 43rd Ave. E. The Fiske Genealogical Library is located on the lower level of the building.