



FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION

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Spring 2020 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 3

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Spring Classes on Hold

The Fiske Foundation Library will not start its Spring Wednesday classes until the concern about the Corona virus has diminished to safe levels. “Social Distancing” is a strong tool to flatten the curve rate of this infectious disease. Each member of the Fiske community must take the preventive steps most appropriate to his or her state of health. How long will we be closed? Jenny Durkin, the Mayor of Seattle, answered with a tentative, “Thirty? Sixty? Ninety days?” We are adding a “News” page to our website which will be updated continuously regarding any news of interest, including the restart of classes.

The following is a list and description of the pending classes.

Janet O’Connor Camarata is preparing two classes. The first presentation is called “Capturing Your Stories: Using Family Artifacts and Photos as Writing Prompts.” Learn to use photos and artifacts to write short, simple essays, profiles, narratives or descriptions. Each story can be shared with family and friends, by email or print, individually or compiled as a collection or as a digital story. She is willing to co-teach with Karen Sipe.

The second offering is entitled “Italian Genealogical Research.” Discover ways to learn the meaning of Italian surnames. Understand Italian naming conventions. Capture the history of your Italian immigrant ancestors. Vital Records from Italy are available on Family Search. The National Archive has naturalization and immigration records that will give you clues where your ancestors came from.

Mary Roddy is preparing a class called “Read 'Em or Weep - Promise and Pitfalls in Newspaper OCR.” Learn where to find free and pay newspaper sites online. Understand how to put OCR mistakes to work for you to increase search results. See a method to make sure you do thorough searching in every newspaper every time.

Spring Classes on Hold

Stephen Morrison believes that today is a great time to be an Irish genealogist! More record collections are digitally available than ever before, so you can ditch the plane ticket and passport. Compare what's available on FindMyPast.com & Ancestry.com. Then, explore the best websites for both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. These are the gems of the Emerald Isle. While some require a small fee or subscription a lot are free, if you only know about them.

Jill Morelli has been planning to teach four classes. One is "Genealogical Problems with Swedish Tax Records." Tax records are little used in Swedish genealogy but are an excellent source for solving problems of eighteenth century record loss and gaps. Tax records let you extend your family back when clerical surveys are not extant.

She also plans to tell us the story of "Friedrich Christian Eiler: Scoundrel, Bigamist and More." When we are offered little information, how do we proceed? Research planning, research strategy development and the importance of collaboration are all illustrated in this case study. It will focus on methods of identification. Not all our ancestors were exemplary individuals!

Her third presentations is "Towards Certification: A Personal View of the Elements and Process." There seems to be a mystery around certification by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. For three years, Jill has blogged about how she learned to be a better historian. She will share her experience of applying for certification.

The fourth topic by Jill Morelli is an introduction to DNA called "I Got My Ancestry DNA– Now what?"

"Don't be lost at sea by Seamen's Records." Karl Kumm is planning a class that shows how important are ship's logs, Admiralty Court cases, other legal procedures. letters of marque, newspaper letters and shipping reports, and even vitalling lists in tracing the life of that seaman. Did he ever go privateering? Was he ever pressed into the British navy? What records tell us about his meanders across our globe? How wealthy did he become? What was his reputation in retirement?

A second class with Karl will focus on "New York: Migration and Research." How early did the first Italian immigrant come to New Amsterdam? Why did the Dutch settle Albany so early? New York was a polyglot community from its earliest settlement. Before the British had captured New York, Jewish refugees fled from an inquisition in Brazil in 1656. Settlers came from the Caribbean, from Virginia along with indentured servants from Great Britain, the Palatines, and Huguenots. How many immigrants arrived in New York in the year of its highest migration? In the nineteenth century there were impoverished potato farmers from across northern Europe, not just Ireland.

We look forward to re-scheduling these classes in the near future. **Do check the website periodically for announcements.**

~ Karl Kumm

Orphan Trains Demonstrate The Changing Availability Of Records For Genealogical Research

Contributed by Karen V. Sipe

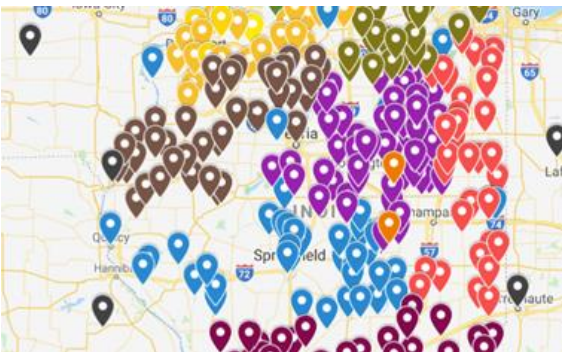
We can pretty much agree there have been big changes between our ancestor's written accounts of family histories and the well sourced genealogies of today. This is a perfect topic to demonstrate how genealogical resources have changed over the decades.

When first asked by my local genealogical society to have a speaker talk about Orphan Trains in the late 1970s, my only recollection of the topic was a Reader's Digest story I had read. Quite frankly I don't know why I remembered the story or what drew me to it in the first place, good thing though as it became the basis of this tale.¹ The Orphan Trains were started by Charles Loring Brace in 1853 as a way to place homeless children in New York City with families.

The quest for a speaker became futile. First, I tried the history department of Western Washington University, no one seem to have any idea or knowledge about the subject. Going bigger I tried the University of Washington, they couldn't help either. Need I say our society did not enjoy a presentation on Orphan Trains.

Since then a great deal has been uncovered and printed. Speakers talk to genealogical societies on this topic. Articles, books, and films abound. Recently on Facebook I found the best source yet, especially for those with orphan train riders in Illinois. The following link is an interactive map showing children placed out from the New York Juvenile Asylum to families mostly in Illinois, but also a few surrounding states. <https://rgridley.wixsite.com/orphantrainmap>²

Patience is a researcher's biggest frustration, but it can also be their biggest reward. Today the discovery of ancestors who rode these trains may be from family stories, by accident, newspaper articles or special tools like this interactive map.



*Image used with permission of Rochelle Gridley.
This is a clip of the original larger map.*

1. Magnuson, James Magnuson & Dorothea Petrie, *Orphan Train*, Readers Digest: Volume 122 #1, 1979
2. "If you are finding this map helpful, please let me know!! Also, if you have information that could be added to this map, it would be very helpful. My email is: rochellegridley@gmail.com"

Recent 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. Call ahead of your visit as not all volunteers have access.

NEW ENGLAND STATES

Roll of New Hampshire soldiers at the battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777 with roll of New Hampshire men at Louisburg, Cape Breton, 1745
E241.B4 G4 1995

Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire 1623 to 1660 F18 .P82 1973

MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES

A dangerous woman – "New York's first Lady Liberty" E191.M66 C66 1995

Ancestral charts – Bicentennial edition 1776-1976
F148 .A63 1976 (Published by South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society)

Journal of James L Purdy: Hopewell Twp, York County PA to Mansfield, Richland County Ohio
F157.Y6 P95 1990

Legends of Loudoun F232.L8 W5 1938

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC AND GULF STATES

Snickersville (North Carolina) the biography of a village F234.S62 S6 1970

Index to the history of Colquitt County (Georgia)
F292.C7 C6 Index

Patrons of the Press: subscription book purchases in North Carolina, 1733-1850
HF5456.B7 P75

MIDWESTERN STATES

Clay County, Kentucky 1850 F457.C57 W44 1984

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Off to Mt. Hood – an auto biography of the old road
F882.H85 W66 1987 (PAWA)

As the Valley was (Yakima Valley) F897.Y2 C7
(PAWA)

Tales of the Pioneers F899.C65 T25 [PAWA]

The last Bell – "Country Schools" of Stevens County
LA383.S73 N33 1984
[PAWA]

AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

Index of births, marriages and deaths as reported in Lake County Newspapers
(California) 1863-1949 F868.L2 I54

Recent Library Acquisitions

AMERICAN GENEALOGIES

Averill Argos CS71.A942

James Hales, Sr. of Knox County, Kentucky His descendants and kin. CS71.H163 1983

Memorial to Charles Henry and Priscilla Jane Lindsay Hauck Vol. III Charlie's ancestors CS71.H3835 1991 v.3

Our Perry Family in Maine CS71.P462 2003

Rader Ramblings (15 issues of Rader family newsletter) CS71.R126a

History of the Silverthorn family: descendants of William Silverthorn, millwright of Erie county, Pennsylvania CS71.S5855 1979

Descendants of Walter Woodworth of Scituate CS71.W912 1898 (published 1976)

Woodworth family of America – descendants of Walter Woodworth of 1630 through six generations CS71.W912 1988

BRITISH ISLES

Remember the Wylde Valley CS435.W6 H69 1989

List of inhabitants upon the Duke of Argyle's property in Kintyre in 1792 CS460 .S4 n.s., 17 (from Scottish Record Society)

Major genealogical record sources in the Isle of Man CS483 .G46 1984

Irish family names, arms, origins, and locations CS2415 .D43 1989

Index to Ardagh wills to 1857, supplement to the Irish Ancestor 1971 DA990.L85 I53 1971

CZECH AND SLOVAK RESOURCES (From the estate of Rosie Bodien)

The Czechs (Bohemians) in America, by Thomas Capek E184.B67 C29 1920

Czechs and Slovaks in America, by Joseph S Roucek E184.B67 R58 1967

A Hidden Impact: the Czechs and Slovaks of Louisiana from 1720's to today by James Hlavac F380.B67 H55 2006

History of the Slovaks of Cleveland and Lakewood, by Jan Pankuch F499.C69 S64613 2001

To reap a bountiful harvest: Czech immigration beyond the Mississippi, 1850-1900 F596.3.B67 K67 1993

REFERENCE RESOURCES

Guide to finding your Ellis Island ancestors CS49 .C383 2005

Twenty censuses – population and housing questions CS49 .S984 2002

The Sheaffe family history (Brisbane, Australia) CS2009 .S5362 1988

Norwegians in America, their history and record E184.S2 U4513 2010

Norwegian Tracks (Vesterheim Genealogical Center newsletter) E184.S2 V47

Civil War Source Book E468 .K24 1992

Handy guide to record searching in the larger cities of the United States CS47 .K57

Protestant church records on microfilm for the former Congress Poland (1815-1915) and Volhynia DK4348.5 .Wu 1992

Milking the Sources: A Scottish Case Study

Contributed by Marjorie Jodoin

I have been working on a report on my great-grandfather, a well-to-do Scottish businessman whose career crashed after a bankruptcy in 1891. He could have survived the bankruptcy relatively intact, but his honor had also been impugned and he became obsessed with suing his former partners not only for his lost fortune, but for his maligned reputation.

He was a wholesale produce merchant in Glasgow, Scotland, and a ship charterer, arranging for the import/export of goods for other businessmen on commission. He also sold insurance to cover the cargoes.

The family tale was that he was quite successful until he undertook a mining venture in Spain. That enterprise was said to have failed because his partners cheated him, liquidating the company, and bringing him to bankruptcy. The bankruptcy meant the loss of his estate in Dumbartonshire, property in Glasgow, and the near destitution of his family. His mental state ultimately led to the loss of his family as well, who for their own survival were forced to leave him.

I started my research many years ago traveling to Scotland. At the Scottish Records Office in Edinburgh I found:

Basic vital records, census, wills and inventories now available at ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk [pay site; check FamilySearch for free first.]

Property records: Sasines—which cover any transfer of property; these gave me information about his acquisition and loss of the Dumbarton estate and Glasgow properties.

Bankruptcy proceedings: the bankruptcy examination was illuminating outlining his business dealings, and providing first person testimony.

On that basis alone, I thought I had the full story. Despite his fairly successful ordinary business, he had tried to gain greater wealth with a silver mine in Spain, but the mine appeared to be played out, he seemed to be lacking in expertise, his current partners were amateurs, and he was working with totally insufficient capital for success. The partners liquidated the venture for valid reasons, but it meant the loss of what he'd invested, and was totally against his wishes. Enraged, he refused their proffered compensation and filed suit—over and over for the next two decades.

Well, I only had half the story and an inaccurate picture of him and his life. When I picked up the project again a year or so ago, the wonderful new world of on-line resources provided a different perspective.

Family lore said he spoke several languages fluently and went to Europe frequently on business, especially to Spain from where much of Britain's produce is imported. Book inscriptions in family possession referred to the Glasgow Athenaeum. Googling that reference, I found a website describing the classes they offered in languages and commercial skills in the 1860s when my GGF was attending around the age of 17.

The 1871 Census said he was a "commercial clerk", so I googled "what's that?" and discovered "The Young Clerk's Manual, or Counting House Assistant," which described the intricate book keeping and commercial knowledge required of a clerk. I also found a website that indicated a clerk's life could be underpaid and tough, but my GGF started out clerking for his father, who was a wholesale grocer and produce merchant.

Amazingly, a year later in 1872, at the age of 23, he appeared to suddenly be walking among giants. New information came from newspaper archives found at FindMyPast.com and [British Newspaper Archive](http://BritishNewspaperArchive). They are related in much the same way as Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com. [Subscription sites] I found BNA

Milking the Sources: A Scottish Case Study

easier to search since I could use company names or key words as well as personal names. New items were found using various versions of names etc.

Using the newspaper references plus legal notices published in the [Edinburgh Gazette](#) [free] I found that my GGF was corporate Secretary in 1872 for a Canadian mining company which linked him to a metallurgical chemist, William Henderson, famous for a new metal extracting “wet” process which revolutionized the mining industry beginning in 1860. Henderson also invented the alloy, ferro-manganese, which significantly advanced the steel making industry in the 1860s. I researched him extensively for background info.

Henderson was linked to one of the most successful British mining operations in Spain, The Tharsis Sulphur & Copper Company, Ltd. He had left the Tharsis company in 1870, but developed his own works in Irvine, Ayrshire, in ten years turning a sleepy village into an highly successful industrial center. His Tharsis background, however, made him a prime target for exploitation, if his name could be attached to ventures. A book on the Tharsis company and other books I wanted to read were available here at the UW Library.

My GGF’s bankruptcy examination had noted that he was hired by Henderson around 1872, in the middle of this active period. He was then linked not only to the Canadian companies, but to an Italian mining venture for which he was also the liquidator in 1873. There wasn’t as much info on this company in the sources I had consulted, but I discovered a reference in the online [National Records of Scotland catalogue](#); unfortunately it could only be consulted in Edinburgh. Then I noted a copy/mail service—sight unseen. I inquired, the file was 32 pages and would only cost me 21 pounds paid by credit card. I received beautiful folio sized color copies confirming that Henderson was Chairman of that company and my GGF was Secretary. He was also Secretary of Henderson’s own successful Seville Sulphur and Copper Company as early as 1875, which set the stage for his later involvement in Spain. Henderson had been both employer and mentor throughout the 1870s.

At Newspapers.com I discovered Canadian news articles that suggested the Canadian ventures had been a fraud perpetrated by a Canadian government minister on the prominent Scottish businessmen who had agreed to be Board members. All of these characters were sufficiently significant to have [Wikipedia articles](#), [obituaries](#), [history books](#) [Google Books, Internet Archive, British Library], [wills](#), [inventories](#), or [individual websites](#) providing additional details. One excellent source was [Grace’s Guide to British Industrial History](#)—a database of articles about individual companies and industry leaders. Published Court of Session decisions and the Scottish Law Review, found on Google Books, provided greater detail on various lawsuits.

Curiously, these successful and astute business leaders seemed to be amazingly gullible at times. The conviction that social status imbued one with virtue seemed to promote a willingness to accept “facts” from “gentlemen” at face value without investigation, even though some of the men involved had been nailed for dubious activities at earlier dates. [I researched the news on many of them.] The recounting of boardroom machinations and stock manipulation was fascinating; yet, most seemed to be easily forgiven if willing to own up to their “mistakes.” If not, lawsuits followed, but no jail time!

I also found the [Scottish Post Office site](#) extremely useful. Since I was checking on so many associations, I was able to download the whole Glasgow city directory for key years. Using the Search function, I could then search not only for names, but for addresses. I found a number of interesting correlations that way that I would not have guessed.

Henderson died prematurely in 1880. At this point, I believe my GGF became Icarus, aiming high. He was surrounded by men who were worth millions in today’s money. [An inflation calculator at [in2013dollars.com](#)

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 or \$35 for 10 sessions. 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.

Brick Walls Workshop

NARA Seattle will be closed until further notice. Staff will continue to respond to written requests for records. Check here for further updates

seattle.archives@nara.gov

This includes the cancellation of the Mount Holy Brick Wall Lunch

~ Karen Sipe

Legacy 9 User Group -

Due to COVID-19 and the need to limit contacts, the user group will suspend meeting until further notice.

~ Siri Nelson

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation is a 501(c)3 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. The newsletter is included with the Annual Library Pass or a separate mail subscription of \$6.00 per year. It is also available online for no charge.

<https://fiskelibrary.org>

Newsletter Editor

Marjorie Jodoin

editor@fiskelibrary.org

Technical Director

Dave Brazier

Contributing Editor

Gary Zimmerman

FamilySearch Interest Group

Are you missing some really important information in your family tree? Have you searched the pages of the FamilySearch.com website for new family connections, pictures, stories, sources and maybe even audio recordings of your relatives? Do you know how to access unindexed records on the site? Do you know how to attached suggested records? Have you used the Wiki?

Even if you haven't entered information on the site your family tree is probably already there. Aren't you curious about what other members of your family have entered? A great opportunity for family collaboration and It's free!

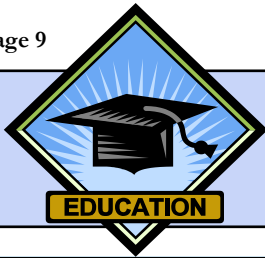
For those of you who have already started the FamilySearch adventure come join us to learn about all the different features of the site. Easy to use and yet it can do very complicated things. Come find out what it's all about. Hope to see you there.

Meetings are currently on hold, but the group normally meets the first Saturday of each month October through June from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Fiske Library (downstairs). **Check the Fiske Library website for resumption of classes.**

Any Questions? contact Lou Daly
loudaly3@icloud.com

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 2020 EDUCATION

2020	Topic	Instructor	Location
Season Classes Are On HOLD	During the COVID-19 shut-down, classes will not be held.	But we are listing the classes that have been prepared and will be held when the crisis is past.	VISIT THE WEBPAGE OFTEN for UPDATES.
TBA	I Got My Ancestral DNA– Now What?	Jill Morelli	
TBA	Don't Be Lost at Sea By Seaman's Records.	Karl Kumm	
TBA	Analysis of DNA Data	Karen Sipe	
TBA	Irish Records Online & My Favorite Irish Websites	Steven Morrison	
TBA	Frederic Christian Eiler— Scoundrel, Bigamist & Rogue	Jill Morelli	
TBA	Capturing Your Stories Using Family Artifacts and Photos as Writing Prompts	Janet O'Connor Camarata	
TBA	Swedish Tax Records	Jill Morelli	
TBA	King County Court Case Index: 1881-1980 and other local databases	Reily Kidd and SGS Staff	
TBA	Read 'Em or Weep - Promise and Pitfalls in Newspaper OCR.	Mary Roddy	
TBA	Italian Research	Janet O'Connor Camarata	
TBA	Getting Certified as a Genealogist	Jill Morelli	
TBA	New York Migration and Research	Karl Kumm	

Milking the Sources

(Continued from page 7)

was useful.] He aspired to their level. He purchased his Dumbarton estate, gave his mother a grand funeral, and entered into his own mining ventures as a key player.

Googling mine names, I discovered articles by one man, an expert on British mining in Spain. One article outlined the history of British ventures in Spain from 1841-1900; the other outlined the specific history of my GGF's mine! I had to translate it from Spanish, but it provided great detail.

I also discovered Spanish websites with pictures—the mine has not been worked since my GGF's time and is now an industrial museum site. It had been worked by the Romans, then left alone until the 19th century. My GGF and his colleague in the Seville company worked the mine starting in 1883, but they had a dispute and the venture was liquidated. It was this mine that my GGF tried to work on his own. Because of the acrimonious breakup, he did not have the support of his former mining partners, and was not able to handle the project alone. It was clear that he had been operating with smoke and mirrors throughout the 1880s. He was living beyond his means and like Icarus, he fell to earth.

Did his partners cheat him? I don't really think so. Most of his troubles were due to his own actions.

I have been researching this account for over a year now and gone through voluminous sources partly because I keep coming up with questions that I have to research fully before I can write an accurate sentence. But it has been worth it. My GGF was much more experienced in company promotion and mining venture practices than I originally thought. And some of his actions can be more readily understood in light of the business environment in which he was raised from his 20s.

I learned a great deal about the Industrial Revolution and the role of the Scottish industrialists — they were giants, often with feet of clay, but it was a period rife with risk, exploitation and a lack of rules. Fortunes were won and lost. But they built the modern world.

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.

Estate of Kathi Judkins Abendroth	Michelle Lyons
Estate of Rosie Bodien	Erik and Susan Pearson
Estate of James O. Gunderson	Lee Philpott
Factoria FHC	South King County Genealogical Society
Michele Genthon	Marie Mullenneix Spearman
Bill Horder	Mary Fields Stoebuck
Jefferson County Genealogical Society	Gary A. Zimmerman
Helen Lewis	

Newsletter Submissions

Our newsletter is published in September, December, April and June. Deadlines are the 1st of the month preceding publication. **Writers—articles are always needed and appreciated!** Please send queries or submissions to editor@fiskelibrary.org.

TIP: If you struggle with URLs printed in our paper copy, go to our online version where you can just click the URL address.

FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

In accordance with State and City recommendations during the COVID-19 crisis, the building is closed. Updates on openings and resumption of classes etc. will be **posted on our website.**

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

* If you expect to arrive at the library after 5pm, call ahead to let us know you are coming. The volunteers may leave early if no one is here. Be sure to check our website frequently for late-breaking news on schedule changes or other information not in the current newsletter. <https://fiskelibrary.org/>

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION INFORMATION

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit service organization providing genealogical training and resource materials. Current Board Members are:

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION FEES

President	Dave Brazier
Vice President	Larry Pike
Treasurer	Michelle Lyons
Secretary	Carolyn Blount
Directors	Karl Kumm Mary Peters
President Emeritis	Gary Zimmerman

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.