



FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION

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Fiske Becomes a FamilySearch Affiliate Library

The Fiske Genealogical Library is pleased to announce that it is now a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, which means it has access to more genealogy resources to help you make family discoveries.

[FamilySearch](#) is a world leader in family history. There are only a few hundred affiliate libraries in the country. The designation means local library patrons will now have greater and more convenient access to the wealth of genealogical resources available through FamilySearch. The popular web service has over 6 billion searchable names and 2 billion images of historical genealogical records—and you get the helpful assistance of library staff. FamilySearch adds over 300 million free genealogical records and images online yearly from all over the world and manages the famous [Family History Library](#) in Salt Lake City. It has amassed billions of birth, marriage, death, census, land and court records from more than 130 countries to help you discover and make family connections.

Family Search may now be searched from any of the Fiske library computers or your own laptop when connected to the Fiske library wi-fi. Images and digital book resources which could not be viewed previously will now be available to Fiske patrons. You will need to be registered with Family Search and use your own user name and password to access the site.

The Fiske Genealogical Library is one of only twelve libraries in the State to enjoy affiliate status. Currently we are only open by appointment. To make an appointment please phone the volunteer listed for the day of the week you wish to visit the library:

Monday: Michelle [253 205-7597](tel:2067597253)
 Wednesday: Mary [206 784-8403](tel:2067848403)
 Thursday: Dave [206 687-5249](tel:2066875249)
 Saturday: Larry [206 720-4719](tel:2067204719)



Discovering Luxembourg Roots



Luxembourg is a small, land-locked country with a current population of about 635,000; it is sandwiched between France, Germany, and Belgium at what has been called “the crossroads of Europe.” Although the land has an ancient history, Luxembourg as a sovereign nation dates to 963, when Siegfried, Count of Ardennes, acquired the land. It included a Roman castle referred to as “Lucilinburhuc” or “Little Fortress,” from which came the country’s name. It has a complicated story of invasion and control by its neighbors, in spite of which the little country developed a distinct national character and a unique language — Luxembourgish (Letzeburgisch) — which is still spoken today.

In the mid-1900s, most Luxembourgers were farmers, craftsmen, and miners. Overpopulation, combined with a series of bad harvests and lack of inheritable land, resulted in great poverty and widespread out-migration. It is estimated that one of every five Luxembourgers (about 50,000) left for America in the fifty years between 1841 and 1891. In the Upper Midwest, the immigrants settled in specific places where farmland was abundant and cheap, and where they could live

near other Luxembourgers. In these communities, they supported one another, practiced their Roman Catholic religion, and preserved many Old World customs. Though they assimilated, they also retained a strong cultural identity. The Library of Congress has a nice online presentation on “The Luxembourgers in America” (<https://www.loc.gov/rr/european/imlu/luxem.html>).

My great-grandmother Margaret Lemmer emigrated from the village of Hoscheid-Dickt in Luxembourg to Wabasha County, Minnesota, in the spring of 1884. (She was called “Gretchen,” so I am her namesake.) She travelled with a sister, Anna Maria, who immediately upon arrival married the widower of their recently deceased older sister, thereby becoming the stepmother of seven nieces and nephews. Margaret moved to St. Paul where she married a German immigrant. My grandmother told me that when the two families got together and the adults wanted privacy, they conversed in German, French, or Luxembourgish — whichever language the children who were present couldn’t understand.

In 2017, the Luxembourg government created a legal path for descendants of Luxembourg emigrants to reclaim citizenship by descent. Two deadlines were involved: 1) by the end of 2018, one had to prove ancestry, and 2) by the end of 2020, one had to apply, in person, for citizenship (the latter deadline has been extended through 2022). My son and I were in Luxembourg in January 2020, just before the world shut down to international travel, to recover our dual citizenship. I’ve continued to research and write about my Lemmer line and, in the process, have found many new relatives — including some still farming in the Luxembourg village that their American cousins left 140 years ago!

Some familiar and unfamiliar tools may be needed to find Luxembourgish ancestors on both continents. One bonus is that, in Europe, Luxembourg women kept their maiden names throughout their lives. Another is the consistency with which both the Luxembourg government and the Catholic church kept and preserved vital records.

U. S. censuses sometimes noted a Luxembourg ancestor's ethnicity as German in one year and French in another — that is a tip-off. A marriage record, passenger manifest, military enrollment, or naturalization paper might also provide clues that lead back to Luxembourg.

It is first necessary to locate communes or parishes where your ancestors lived. FamilySearch's research wiki page "Luxembourg Finding Town of Origin" gives good guidance. The University of St. Thomas in St. Paul has two searchable databases on its website: 1) the "Tables Decennales, 1853-1863," which are ten-year compilations of civil records of births, marriages, and deaths that link surnames to places, and 2) "Parish/Civil Records, 1600-1890." Both of these databases lead to the relevant LDS microfilm numbers (viewable at FamilySearch by entering the film number in their catalog or, if that fails, by entering the place name directly into the Catalog Search box). The original civil records are in German or French, and the handwriting may be hard to read. (Civil record formats, however, were standardized, so translation guides can help.)

Catholic Church registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials are excellent sources. Besides naming parents, residences, dates, and ages, learning the names of godparents and witnesses to church rites can establish family relationships. These books were written in Ecclesiastical Latin, but are not too hard to decipher. Although the registers are available at FamilySearch, a more user-friendly viewer is Matricula Online (<https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>). There, one can search by parish name, or find specific parishes by zooming in on the website's map.

Luxembourg took a national census every three years from 1843 through 1900. FamilySearch has the browsable images (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2037957>). All people in a household are named, even including family members living away from home at the time.

The National Library of Luxembourg (BnL) has digitized many newspapers and made them keyword searchable (<https://eluxemburgensia.lu>). Obituaries will often contain names of close relatives. They may list towns where relatives lived who needed to be notified (including abroad!).

The Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux) has genealogical documents. If you send them details of a vital record, they will mail you a copy. They also offer fee-based research.

If you do need to read text written in Luxembourgish, there are many free online translators.

These are the resources I found most helpful in finding my Lemmer ancestors, and there are others as well. I wish you "vill Erfolleg" finding your Luxembourgishers!

~ Submitted by Gretchen Furber

Research News

Holocaust Survivor Lists Digitized for the First Time — Hundreds of pages with the names of Holocaust survivors relocated to Displaced Persons Camps in Austria and Germany have been reprinted and digitized. They are now available on the open web. The volumes were originally published in 1945 by the U. S. Government as a way to help survivors, the Sharit Ha-Platah or “the surviving remnant,” reach family members around the world. Details may be found in an article in the University of Massachusetts News web site:

<https://www.umass.edu/news/article/holocaust-survivor-lists-digitized-first-time>.

In 2004, JewishGen compiled a name-searchable database from the USHMM's copy of Sharit-HaPlatah:

https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/0103_Sharit-haPlatah.html

~ Thanks to Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter

New Census Data Released this Year —

Research guides are emerging regarding new Census releases this year.

[The 1950 U.S. Census and Military Research](#): This Fold 3 Blog article by Jenny Ashcroft outlines how the 1950 Census can illuminate family transitions resulting from World War II military service. Some considerations include:

- Ancestors enumerated in the 1940 U. S. Census may not be living in 1950.
- Many returning soldiers who took advantage of the G. I. Bill to attend college may be enumerated in school locations rather than at home.
- Many households may be found around the country as returning soldiers seek employment and start families in newly built subdivisions.
- The article also cites a long list of unique military service placements here and abroad.

~Fold3 HQ, 23 Feb 2022

Use these records with care. Many people enumerated in 1950 are still alive and their privacy should be respected.

YouTube videos:

[Get Ready for the 1950 Census!](#) The 1950 census will be released April 1, 2022. Here's what you need to know to prepare to use it, including a neat tool that will help you find your ancestors even without an index.

[Genealogy Series: Overview of What's in the 1950 Census \(2022 March 2\)](#)

A series of seven lectures from NARA — The National Archives and Records Administration.

1921 British Census

In Britain, the 1921 Census has been released. It is available on [FindMyPast.com](#) and there is an online guide to the use of these records. [Click here.](#)

~ Marjorie Jodoin

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

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<https://fiskelibrary.org>

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SPRING 2022 EDUCATION

All classes are scheduled from 10:00 A.M. until noon unless otherwise noted. Presentations are currently virtual. Please check the website for linking information ahead of the start time. Dates marked “TBA” will be updated online as soon as confirmed.

2022	Topic	Instructor	Location
Wednesday March 23	Capturing Stories: Using Artifacts and Photos as Writing Prompts	Janet O'Connor Camarata	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday March 30	Entering your Photos, Documents, Stories and Audio Memories into FamilySearch	Lou Daly	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday April 6	Germanic Immigration in the 1800s	Evelyn Roehl	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday April 13	Spring Breakk—No Class		
Wednesday April 20	Making Sense of the U. S. Census Records	Janice Lovelace	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday April 27	Washington Historical Archives	Midori Okazaki	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday May 4	Focused Research: Using Research Plans	Lisa S. Gorrell	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday May 11	Surprise! Surprise! Using DNA to Trace Your Ancestry	Nancy Cordell	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday May 18	Dancing with the Spanish Lady: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918	Lisa A. Oberg	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday May 25	Preview of a New Collaborative DNA Tool	Karin Borgerson	Virtual Presentation
Wednesday June 1	TBA	TBA	Virtual Presentation

Newsletter Submissions

Have you discovered a particularly useful resource in your research, or broken through a brick wall? Would you be interested in submitting an article for the newsletter? Articles can be 1-2 pages long and may be subject to gentle editorial comment.

Is there a class you'd like to see offered or is there a research issue on which you are stuck? Your editor would like to feature a semi-regular column with your input.

Our newsletter is published in September, December, April and June. Deadlines are the 20th of the month preceding publication. **Writers—articles are always needed and appreciated!** Please send queries or submissions to editor@fiskelibrary.org.

Surplus Books

Surplus Book sales have continued into 2022. Thank you so much for your support. We are still overstocked with surplus books, many of which contain specific data on individuals, families and locations. We also have general histories which can be very informative for understanding background, and a lot of research guides with useful information. Even if out-of-date, these guides can prove useful.

Our Surplus Books Half-Price Sale will continue during this limited reopening phase. Now is the time to consider purchasing some of the higher priced books which might benefit your research.

~Marge Jodoin, Surplus Books Manager
surplus@fiskelibrary.org

Legacy Family Tree User Group

The Legacy Family Tree User Group Zoom meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, from 1-2PM.

The Legacy Family Tree questions we cover run the gamut from beginner to the more advanced - from how to contact Legacy support, to moving data from one computer to another, as well as running reports and tagging items, etc. Most recently we went over how to use Legacy for the upcoming release of the 1950 US Census. We also welcome questions and topics you would like us to go over.

If you are interested in attending, please send a message to editor@fiskelibrary.org with your email contact information. We will need your email address to send out the Zoom invitation.

~ Siri Nelson

Tips on Family Photos Legacy

Many of us have located an ancestor's photo album only to discover many of the photos are not identified. The problem has now been complicated by the use of cell phones and digital photo collections—what happens when someone dies and the family does not have their digital passwords?

A recent article in WIRED discusses the options of which every family historian ought to be aware.

[“How to Leave Your Photos to Someone When you Die.”](#) by Harry Guinness, WIRED, March 17, 2022.

He discusses the sorting that should be done beforehand and the services by which an heir could access your digital files—with warnings on when and how to do this.

~ Thanks to Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter

FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	By appointment. Call Michelle 253 205-7597
Wednesday	By appointment. Call Mary 206 784-8403
Thursday	By appointment. Call David 206 687-5249
Friday	Reserved for research groups from outside the greater Seattle Area. Contact David to make reservations. 206 687-5249
Saturday	By appointment. Call Larry 206 720-4719

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION INFORMATION

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation is a non-profit organization providing genealogical training and resource materials. Current Board Members are:

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION FEES

President	David Brazier
Vice President	Larry Pike
Treasurer	Michelle Lyons
Secretary	Linda Blais
Directors	Mary Peters

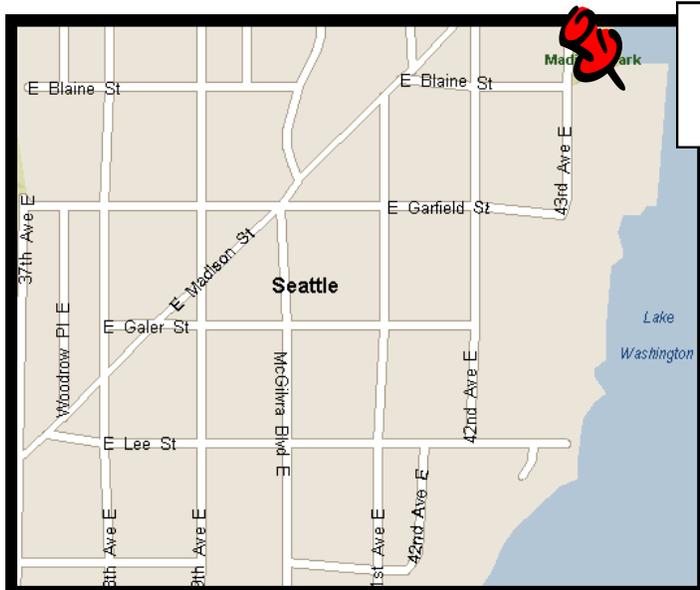
Daily Use Fee \$5.
 Annual Library Pass \$50.
 Annual Family Pass \$70.
 Wednesday Seminar Series
 (10 sessions) \$35.
 Annual Library Pass
 plus Full Year Seminar Series
 (30 sessions) \$85
 Newsletter—Mail Subscription
 \$6 for 4 Issues



Fiske Genealogical Foundation
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Return Service Requested

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.