



# FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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<b>Articles</b>	
30th Anniversary at Pioneer Hall	1
Scotland: 1921 Census available at ScotlandsPeople	4
NARA is open!	6
<b>Education</b>	
Winter Class List	5
Legacy Group Zoom meetings	6
FamilySearch Special Interest Group meetings	6
<b>Fiske—General Information</b>	
Fiske Board Members	7
Thanks to our Donors!	6
Newsletter Submissions & Deadlines	6
Library Hours	7
Fees	7
Driving Directions to Fiske	8

## Fiske Celebrates 30 Years at Pioneer Hall

September 2022 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Fiske Genealogical Library in the lower level of Washington Pioneer Hall. On July 1, 1992, the Fiske Genealogical Foundation signed a lease with the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, owners of the building. Over the next three months what had been a small-boat repair shop was converted into a library and classroom facility. In September the Foundation received its 501(c)3 tax-exempt status from the IRS and opened its doors with classes led by its founder, Arthur Fiske.



The library originated with Arthur D. Fiske. As a young man he became interested in his family history and the hobby became a career. In 1952 he joined the Seattle Genealogical Society and immediately began to assist SGS and the Seattle Public Library in acquiring their genealogical collections. He soon became well known in Seattle as a research expert. In 1956 he was editor of the SGS Bulletin and by 1965 he was president of the Society. During his first term as President, he established a permanent headquarters for SGS. He served a second term as president in 1973.

After he began teaching in 1969, he built up a library of his own and in 1971 the Fiske Genealogical Center was born. The Fiske Center was housed in several locations before settling into a house on Queen Anne hill which was loaned to Arthur in 1982. For the next ten years that was “home” for the Fiske collection and classes. He also began serving as the professional genealogist on Heritage Tours to New England and the British Isles.

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation was created in 1990 with a board of directors to assist Arthur in his creative work and his library was given to the foundation. His collection included original manuscripts and records, a card

( 30 Years at Pioneer Hall, Continued from page 1)

file with 4.5 million names, and decades of research especially in the 13 Colonial States. It was the Foundation that negotiated a lease for space at Pioneer Hall from the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington.

Arthur D. Fiske served as president of the foundation until his death on June 14, 1996, but the Foundation committed itself to continuing his work. Muriel Winterscheid served as president from June 1997 to October 1998. She was followed by Gary Zimmerman who ably served as president for the next 20 years adding to the collection, teaching, leading research trips, writing articles for the newsletter and offering presentations around the region. Gary has also been an active member of the Pioneer Association. He retired in 2018 and was followed by David Brazier, our current president.

The non-profit educational Foundation has had two major goals: to provide on-going education in genealogical research techniques and to build a library of genealogical materials not readily available, especially for those townships east of the Mississippi River.

The collection has continued to grow. In 1996 there were about 5,000 titles in the collection; today there are about 12,000, and the collection area has expanded from a focus on the eastern seaboard and British Isles to the westward migration and the Pacific Northwest. The collection has also expanded its European collection to include the originating countries of the immigrant streams coming to the United States.

The conversion to the Library of Congress classification provided easier access to a rapidly growing collection. Participation in both the WorldCat catalogue and in the inter-library loan programs have extended the reach of the library far beyond the Seattle area.

Classes in genealogical research techniques and resources have been continuously offered from September to June. These were normally held in Pioneer Hall, but the Covid pandemic shifted our focus to online virtual presentations.

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation Newsletter started in 1992 has provided information not only about new genealogical resources and events, but detailed instructional articles. The latest additions to the library collection have been a regular feature. Our website includes a newsletter archives page listing newsletters from 2002 to the present with a search engine for easy access. <https://fiskelibrary.org/NewsLetter/default.htm> .

Keeping up with the times we began offering articles and classes on DNA Genealogy beginning in 2016 thanks to knowledgeable members and presenters. Books on the topic were added to library.

User groups became a feature at Fiske library. Mary Peters started a Legacy 9.1 User Group at Fiske in 2017 addressing the questions of people using that powerful genealogy program. Siri Nelson graciously took over

(Continued on page 3)

( 30 Years at Pioneer Hall, Continued from page 2)

the group and offers it now via Zoom. Lou Daly offered an ongoing class on the use of the FamilySearch.org site both here and at SGS. When the pandemic hit, SGS was best able to offer the classes virtually and they are ongoing. Fiske clients are welcome to participate.

The Fiske Library cooperates with its three partners who share space in the building. The Pioneer Association of the State of Washington owns the building and has extensive research materials of its own with a focus on residents of Washington territory between 1853 and 1889. The Seattle Chapter of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington has a collection of Northwest history and fiction. The State Association of the Daughters of the Pioneers houses their large collection of Northwest Americana in the building.

Fiske Library has collaborated with the three other collections in getting their holdings listed in WorldCat so that others will learn of their potential for further research. The holdings of these three latter groups do not circulate on inter-library loan but must be used in Pioneer Hall. Pioneer Association members have free access to use of the Fiske library.

The Fiske has enjoyed an association with other genealogical centers in Seattle and the region participating in genealogical fairs, holding classes at various resource centers, and sharing information regarding local events.

The library closed “temporarily” in March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Spring classes were placed on hold and Fall classes were not scheduled. The closure has lasted far longer than expected, but by Fall 2021 the library re-opened by appointment with the help of several volunteers. Karl Kumm retired from his role as Director of Education and Ken Peterson took over in September 2021. With the continuing pandemic cautions in place online sessions were deemed the way to go. David Brazier and Ken set up a workable system and the classes have been a success. Fees were waived in favor of donations.

The Fiske had a large collection of Surname binders with family group sheets etc. in the main library. In need of space, the binders were emptied and the contents boxed and placed in storage. They are still available for review on request, but the request must be made ahead of any visits in order to retrieve the appropriate box.

In a similar vein, Fiske is frequently asked if we would be interested in the research collections of family historians who have passed on. We have taken in a number of these collections. Carolyn Blount took on the task of reviewing and indexing the contents. This information is available under “Finding Aids,” on our website. Again, requests must be made ahead of visits in order to retrieve the material from storage.

Last Spring the Fiske Genealogical Library was made a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. 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 FamilySearch and use your own user name and password to access the site. If the library computers are used, you may also wish to bring a thumb drive to save the

(Continued on page 4)

(30 Years at Pioneer Hall, Continued from page 3)

information gleaned.

In order to fully reopen the Fiske library and the activities we once enjoyed, a new generation of volunteers are needed. Those with library experience may assist with cataloging new additions to the collection and other duties. Those with research experience are particularly helpful to visitors, but willing volunteers can be trained in the basic functions of the library. The primary need is for a team presence in the library on a regular basis to re-establish open hours for drop-ins. Please contact David Brazier if interested in becoming a volunteer. (206 687-5249)

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation and Library does not have any membership requirements, but is dependent upon donations. There is a \$5 fee for visits to the library which can be paid per visit or on an annual basis [\$50 Individual; \$70 Family] entitling you to unlimited use of the facility. Pioneer Association members have free access to the library. Currently, we are not charging for classes, but donations there are also appreciated. The class list and information on how to join a virtual presentation is published on the website. The current newsletter is available for free on the website and can be accessed at any time; if one provides an email address to the newsletter editor, an alert will be sent when the latest newsletter has been posted. Hardcopy of the newsletter can also be provided for \$6.00 per year. Donations can be made online via the "Donate" button on the homepage. The website address is <https://fiskelibrary.org/>

Information on membership in the Pioneer Association is available at <https://wapioneers.com/>

*~ Compiled by Marjorie Jodoin from Gary Zimmerman's article "Fiske Celebrates 20 years at Pioneer Hall," Fiske Genealogical Foundation Newsletter, Fall 2012, Vol. 20, No. 1, and our newsletter archives. Thanks also to Steve Ellersick for newsletter items from the Pioneer Association.*

## 1921 Census for Scotland

ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk has added the 1921 Census for Scotland to their website. As of 30 November 2022 the 1921 census was opened and made available on the ScotlandsPeople website and ScotlandsPeople Centres. These records provide a glimpse of what life was like for people in 1921; where they lived, who they lived with and their occupation. For the first time the census also records where people worked, if children had been orphaned and who was eligible for benefit under the National Insurance Act of 1911."

Read the full article at

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/article/news-article-1921-census-records-released>

The 1921 Census for England and Wales is available at FindMyPast: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation is a nonprofit 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 membership or a separate mail subscription of \$6.00 per year. It is also available online for no charge.

<https://fiskelibrary.org>

### Newsletter Editor

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### President

David Brazier



## WINTER 2023 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 and for class notes. Information on any TBA entries will be updated as soon as available.

2022	Topic	Instructor
<b>Wednesday January 11</b>	Celebrating Your Ancestors Through Quilts	Mary Kircher Roddy
<b>Wednesday January 18</b>	Mapping an Ancestor: Researching Using Maps	Janet O'Connor Camarata
<b>Wednesday January 25</b>	Preserving Family Heirlooms	Lisa A. Oberg
<b>Wednesday February 1</b>	Latin 101—Deciphering Catholic Parish Records	Mary Kircher Roddy
<b>Wednesday February 8</b>	Precarious Lives of Free Blacks Pre-1865	Janice Lovelace
<b>Wednesday February 15</b>	TBA	
<b>Wednesday February 22</b>	TBA	
<b>Wednesday March 1</b>	Lunacy and Asylums: Mental Health in the 19th Century	Janice Lovelace
<b>Wednesday March 8</b>	Town Records of New England	Maureen L. MacDonald
<b>Wednesday March 15</b>	TBA	

## NARA is Open!

Thanks to the efforts of Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, the closure of the National Archives and Records Administration in Seattle was halted, but many may not be aware that the facility has reopened.

Research visits are by appointment only, Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and may require a virtual consultation prior to the onsite visit. Please email [seattle.archives@nara.gov](mailto:seattle.archives@nara.gov) or call 206-336-5132 for a virtual consultation appointment prior to requesting a research visit. Researchers should monitor the web page [archives.gov/seattle](https://www.archives.gov/seattle) for details and updates, as the situation can change quickly.

The NARA website has full details on what is available to researchers including online databases. <https://www.archives.gov/seattle/research> .

## FamilySearch SIG

### Join the FamilySearch Special Interest Group

Discover the many ways to use the FamilySearch website in your research.

Lou Daly leads a Zoom meeting the first Saturday of every month November through June 10:15 am to 12:15 p.m. sponsored by the Seattle Genealogical Society.

A different aspect of the website is featured at every meeting with time for Q & A. Want to join the mailing list? Email Lou: [loudaly@nwlink.com](mailto:loudaly@nwlink.com)

## Legacy Family Tree User Group

**Legacy Family Tree User Group Zoom meetings** are on the third Thursday of the month from **1-2PM**. Our January meeting is on **January 19**. If you use Legacy Family Tree, please join us.

The types of topics we cover are quite varied. For example in November, we looked at the Scrapbook function and printing reports, as well as options for printing photos. We also welcome questions and topic suggestions.

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

Siri Nelson

## Thanks to our Donors

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation and Library has always been dependent upon donations, but this has been doubly true during the pandemic when the library has been closed to regular use.

In 2022 we received \$700 in donations including \$500 through a Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund grant and a \$100 gift from the Mercer Girls DAR.

We received another \$559 through the sale of surplus books. Your ongoing patronage and support is most appreciated. Thank you!

~ The FGF Board

## FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

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

## FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION INFORMATION

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

### FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION FEES

<b>President</b>	David Brazier
<b>Vice President</b>	Larry Pike
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michelle Lyons
<b>Secretary</b>	Linda Blais
<b>Directors</b>	Mary Peters

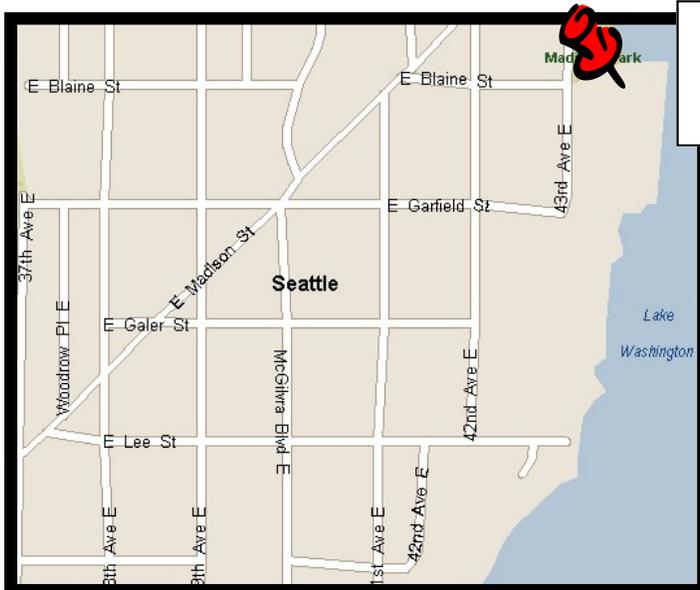
Daily Use Fee \$5.  
 Annual Library Pass \$50.  
 Annual Family Pass \$70.  
 Wednesday Seminar Series  
 (10 sessions) \$35.  
 Annual Library Pass  
 plus Full Year Seminar Series  
 (30 sessions) \$85  
 Newsletter—Mail Subscription  
 \$6 for 4 Issues



Fiske Genealogical Foundation  
1644 43rd Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98112-3222

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.