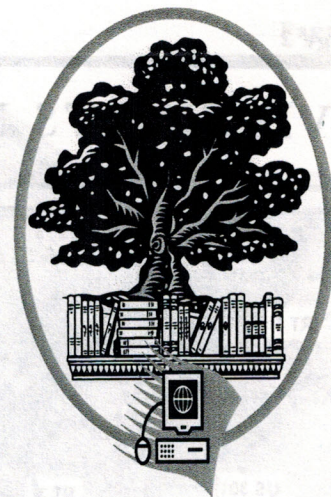


FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

December 2001 VOLUME 9 NUMBER 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RESEARCH AIDS	
New Book and Publication Acquisitions	8
Virginia's Northern Neck	2
New Hampshire	4
Cleveland	4
EDUCATION	
Winter 2002 Classes	9
TECHNOLOGY	
Internet—Boon or Bane?	1
Personal Websites	3
UPCOMING EVENTS	
Salt Lake Tour	5
Eastern Seaboard Tour	5
THANKS TO:	
Bill and Mary Eberle	7
HELP NEEDED	
Volunteers	5
GENERAL	
Hours of Operation	4
Fiske Board Members	6

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



The Internet: Boon or a Bane for the Genealogist?

As we come to the end of the first year of the third millennium, I marvel at how rapidly the work of the genealogist has undergone change in a very short interval of time.

With the coming of the information age and the increasingly wide-spread use of the internet browser, the CD-ROM, and the art of desktop publishing, genealogical researchers have scores of new tools and data "sources" at their disposal.

Occasionally, people come to the library seeking assistance, telling a story that since they were unable to find something on the internet a record must not exist and they lament the

resulting gap in their family history. Others stop in for help, convinced that they will never learn how to search for something in "cyberspace" (even if they don't recognize that word for the world of computer accessible resources). Both groups of people benefit from forming better expectations of what is available and how to access it.

The internet is a *tool* for the genealogist, but it will never be the sole source for genealogical information. Just like the card catalog at a nearby library or the files at the county courthouse, it is another place to get clues about a family line, but you must rely on your own personal, growing sense of what is an acceptable level of confidence in the information you are getting.

The quality and accuracy of what you can find on the internet varies greatly and you must develop critical skills to avoid being misled by what you read. You must get a feel for the records that exist but have never been placed in a *digital* form. This is no different than learning what things have been micro-

filmed by the Family History Library and what records have not been filmed by the FHL. You develop a critical sense of what you can do with each resource at your disposal.

The Fiske Library will increasingly bring information to you about useful resources on the internet.

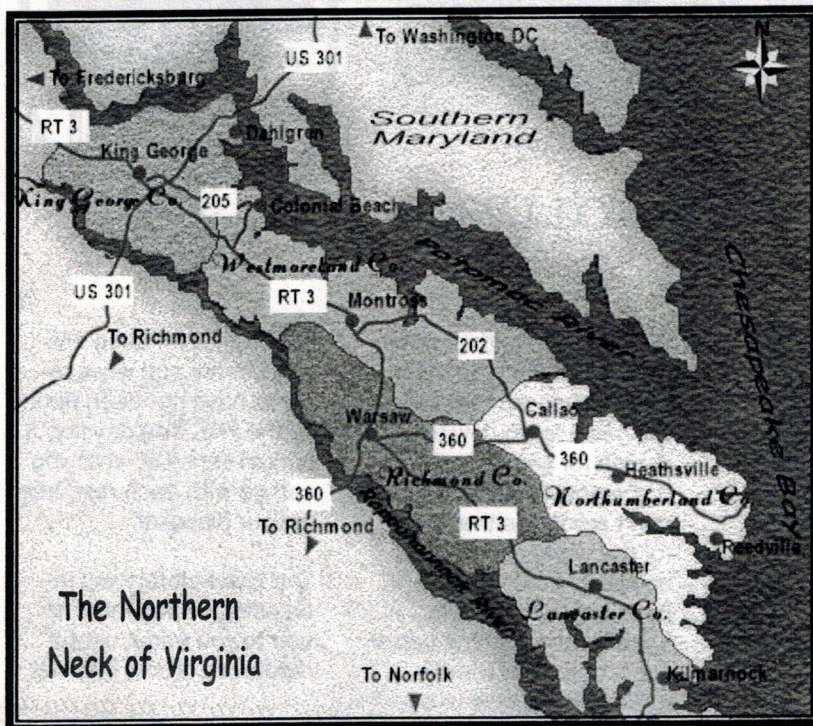
If you are anxious about using the internet, stop into the library and use our computer workstations under the guidance of one of our volunteers. You can get useful information for your family line at the same time that you are learning computer search techniques.

The internet is a boon because so many records in so many parts of the world are becoming available to you right here at home.

The bane of doing internet genealogy is learning how to evaluate the quality and accuracy of what you are reading, and learning when to recognize when you have to go directly to a different source for never digitized records.

Gary A. Zimmerman

VIRGINIA'S NORTHERN NECK



The Northern Neck of Virginia

"The Virginia grants were recorded separately from the rest of the lands in the state, and held with the Fairfax land records until 1862."

The land in Virginia between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers is known as the Northern Neck.

In 1649, King Charles II of England, while still in exile during Cromwell's Revolution, granted 5.2 million acres of land in the Northern Neck to seven proprietors. This land eventually came to be known as the Fairfax Proprietary.

Beginning in 1690, agents of the proprietors began to issue land grants. A person would buy a "warrant" from the proprietary land office, present it to a surveyor and then take the completed plat map back to the land office to get a formal "grant" document.

The land office opened by the proprietors continued to

operate through the Revolutionary War until 1782 when Lord Fairfax died. The Commonwealth of Virginia continued to operate their land office after the final Fairfax interests were closed when the last surviving Fairfax family heir sold his title in 1808.

The Virginia grants were recorded separately from the rest of the lands in the state, and held with the Fairfax land records until 1862.

At that time, West Virginia broke away to join the Union as a new state. All of the remaining "open land" in the Northern Neck service area at the time was in West Virginia.

The Library of Virginia has three collections of records for these land transactions in the Northern Neck. The *Northern Neck Surveys, 1697, 1722-81* and the *Northern Neck Plats and Certificates, 1786-1874* are unrecorded documents arranged in folders with an index available online.

The *Northern Neck Survey 1786-1874* consists of recorded documents, all of which are both indexed and available as images online. If you have an internet browser you can find these images and indexes at

<http://eagle.nsla.edu/lonn/> and can easily do your land research from home.

Jeremiah Murdock was granted 374 acres in King George County on 22 July 1732. The details are found in *Northern Neck Grants D, 1731-32*, page 99. The image of that page can be read over the internet. The survey of this parcel was also a recorded document and can be downloaded and printed from your computer.

The indexes online also give the details of which roll of microfilm these documents are on if you wish to get film from the Library of Virginia or from other sources.

George Morgan received a grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia, for 35 acres on Indian Creek of the big fork of the Guyandot River in Logan County, on 30 June 1847.

This grant is found in *Land Office Grants 98, 1846-1847* and is indexed with the Northern Neck Grants and Surveys. Logan County was part of the area that became West Virginia in 1862.

Gary A. Zimmerman

CORNER OF THE WEB

When I joined the Fiske three years ago, I volunteered to become the webmaster because of my experience with my own genealogical website. I'm no expert, but I've learned on the go.

Why bother with a personal website? It can be a lot of work – a Frankenstein at times, since it's tough to keep the pages updated, but I still find it valuable. I'm good at collecting information, but have always had difficulty writing up the reports.

The problem with genealogy is that one never feels "finished". When I decided to have a website, I thought it would be a place to publish my ongoing research, finished or not. My home page is:

<http://www.geocities.com/mjiodoin/>

I didn't even have a computer in the beginning. I started out with a WebTV unit. I couldn't upload files, but Geocities offered hosting with a built-in editor. That worked well in the beginning. Eventually, I got a laptop; I was able to upload files and photos. I stayed with Geocities because I found it easy-to-use and convenient. It was also a great "backup" for my material—beyond computer failure or household disaster.

I found several uses for my website. I could publish my genealogy "as is". Many websites focus solely on the family tree. But I wanted to do more than that.

I enjoy history. One of the thrills of genealogy is using family stories to explore historical themes. I have found that history/genealogy is a two-way street. Knowing I had family in Oregon in 1843 led me to research early Oregon history so I could embellish their stories; but their stories also revealed things not discussed in the history books. All my relations came to Oregon around the Horn in Yankee clippers, not by wagon train. I was also surprised to see several instances of divorce in the 19th c., usually brought to court by the women.

So history illuminates our experience, but our experience can undercut the cultural generalizations and assumptions of history. Some family documents – if not too recent to be considered private – can provide important historical insight. A cousin posted correspondence outlining our family's emigration to Canada which is illuminating for anyone researching that time and place:

<http://www.geocities.com/mjiodoin/127.htm>

I have a section called "Topics" where I post revealing pages: <http://www.geocities.com/mjiodoin/topicsct.htm> Often, especially when traveling, I've collected anything

that might be relevant, whether or not it is. I continually find notebooks of material kept in a box and moldering in closets; useless to me, and certainly useless to anyone else.



I've put wills and other documents not belonging to me onto my website and have been pleased to have descendants of those people email me with thanks. Sometimes, all I can post is an index to material I have, but will give the details to people if contacted:

<http://www.geocities.com/mjiodoin/kinrag.htm>

I use the internet to provide background on my family pages. Using a good search engine – I like www.google.com – I have found sites on locations, historical events, and famous people which I can link to my pages. Such sites may provide photos and maps. There is no copyright infringement in linking to a site, only in incorporating the material:

<http://www.geocities.com/mjiodoin/hell/hellname.htm>

I have found my WebPages especially helpful in discovering new material. I posted a question underneath the name of a collateral relation in my Ralston/Cunningham line. A cousin emailed me and connected me with several others, eventually expanding my descendency page considerably:

<http://www.geocities.com/mjiodoin/198.htm>

My Indiana Ralstons and New Zealand Cunningham/Macaulays came to me through emails. So did the breakthrough to France in my Hellenbrand line and to Kinross in my Robertson line.

Now there are several hosting networks. Rootsweb is one of the best. Lycos offers up to 50 mb free. Yahoo/Geocities offers 20 mb free, and I have found that to be plenty even with a large photo directory.

What have you done with a personal website? We'd like to know what our Fiske members are up to. Send your web address to me at: mjiodoin@yahoo.com

Marge Jodoin

NEW TOOL FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGY

"For over 20 years, the NHOGA has been compiling a list of every known burial site in the state."

The New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association and the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists are collaborating on a new project that will be of interest to Fiske Library users: online access to their master list of burial sites in New Hampshire.

For over 20 years, the NHOGA has been compiling a list of every known burial site in the state. They have tried to include everything from the large urban cemeteries to the small rural graveyards that may have no more than one recorded burial.

The new database is available at: <http://nhsog.org/nhoga/index.htm> and will give exact map coordinates for locating the remote sites. The database does not record names of individual interments, but if full or partial transcriptions are available online then a link to that website is included.

With each set of map coordinates is a link to a very clear topographic map that appears on your computer screen in one of four levels of magnification. As you put

your cursor on the map and move it around, the legend at the bottom of the map shows exactly what the coordinates of your cursor are. As you move the cursor to approach the desired cemetery, you will find that it is already marked with a clear red "+" on the map.

As more cemeteries are transcribed and posted on the internet, the database is updated.

Gary A. Zimmerman

MARRIED IN CLEVELAND?

The Probate Court of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, has opened to the public a searchable index of marriages in Cuyahoga County from 1810 to the present.

Given the names of both bride and groom, the search will return the specific volume number and page citation for the marriage record. Specific details will still need to be requested of the Probate Court.

Use your web browser to find the search engine at: <http://198.30.212.15/> or go to the home page for the Probate Court at: <http://www.cuyahoga.oh.us/probate/> and select the appropriate links.

The Historical Marriage License file covers the period from 1810 to April 1998. For marriage licenses since April, 1998, you must use

the current court calendar index which is linked to the home page given above.

In the current calendar index, you must select the specific court action for which you are searching. You can also search for recent probates in that post-1998 database.

Gary A. Zimmerman



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
2nd Sunday of Each Month	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**FISKE
LIBRARY
HOURS OF
OPERATION**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Fiske Library is a registered non-profit foundation. This means that all the work is done by a busy cadre of dedicated volunteers, some donating up to 15-20 hours per week. More regular volunteers would lighten their load!

Currently, there are three positions that are especially in need of new volunteers:

1. Wednesday afternoon librarian between 3 pm and 6 pm.
2. Saturday librarian on a regular, once or twice per month schedule.
3. Newsletter distribution team once every three months for folding, labeling and mailing.

In the past, the bulk mailing of the Newsletter required about 40 hours of concentrated work, four times per year. Four volunteers could complete the task in one dedicated day, or eight volunteers in less time.

However, the mailing process has recently been streamlined because the Pioneer Society has authorized Fiske to use their bulk mailing permit.

The newsletter will be pre-printed with the postage permit, thus eliminating the need to stamp each newsletter.

Are there a group of members who wish to receive their newsletter

by US post that would like to work together on this task?

Training will be provided, and the next issue isn't due until March.

We need your help! Please call the library if you can spare a few hours on a quarterly basis.

Carolyn Blount



“Currently, there are three positions that are especially in need of new volunteers...”

SALT LAKE TOUR, JAN. 10TH TO 19TH, 2002



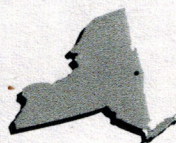
The Fiske Library genealogy tour to Salt Lake City is getting ready to depart with about 25 eager researchers on January 10, 2002 on Delta Airlines.

The cost is \$650 each, double occupancy and \$995 single. Researchers will stay in the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel next door to the LDS Family History Library. The deadline to sign-up for this tour is December 15, 2001.

According to Betty Kay Anderson, a couple of additional researchers may still join the group, which will close at 30. There may be slight adjustments in the air fare for late additions.

See the Fiske Web page at www.fiske.lib.wa.us for more information, or call 206 328-2716 or 360-275-2831.

EASTERN SEABOARD TOUR, SEPT. 21ST TO OCT. 5TH, 2002



A second research tour for 2002 is scheduled for fall, September 21-October 5, to New York City and New Brunswick NJ.

The group will also visit Philadelphia including Lancaster, Harrisburg and Berks County, with the final six nights in Washington DC. There researchers may visit the DAR Library, the Library of Congress, the National Archives and the National Genealogical Society.

Cost will be about \$1500, including air transportation, ground transportation and rooms for the full two weeks.

See the Fiske Web page: www.fiske.lib.w.us or telephone 206 328-2716 or 360 275-2831 for details.





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Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2002!

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER AND
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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; email gzim@fiske.lib.wa.us; web site <http://www.fiske.lib.wa.us>.

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation is a non-profit service organization that provides genealogical training, resource materials and support to members.

Submission Deadlines:
First day of the month preceding the issue month, e.g. November 1st for the December/January issue.

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Mary Stevenson

Production Director
Carolyn Blount

FISKE GENEALOGICAL
FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

Wednesday Seminar Series
(10 sessions) \$30.

Annual Library Membership \$40.

Annual Couple Membership \$60.

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

OUR THANKS TO BILL AND MARY EBERLE

Bill and Mary Schofield Eberle began doing research with Arthur Fiske when his Library was still housed on Queen Anne Hill.

Bill was very involved with the move to the Pioneer Building and built some of the tall 6 foot black bookcases that the Library still uses. He specifically remembers when he and Ace Fricke had to move all of the books one more time to make space for another row. They also built the showcase. Bill also typed the Records of the First Episcopal Methodist Church, Washington Territory available from the Fiske Library.

Bill continues to work on his book on the Royal Lines. He has put it all on a data base and keeps

finding more lines to connect. Currently he has more than 37,100 people in the data base, using the Family Tree Maker program. A copy of this book is housed at the Fiske Library.

On Arthur's suggestion ten years ago, Bill has brought the genealogy of Esther Brewster Herrick and Noahdiah Woodruff down to the present. Bill recalls that Arthur told him that "this is what we should all do" with our family research.

One of Mary's successful ideas was leaving her card with a note in a library book on a page about an ancestor they were researching in California. Some time later he got a call from a "cousin" who found them in Seattle.

They both descended from a Welsh coal miner who came to California in 1851.

Bill has just retired from his volunteer position of formatting the Fiske Newsletter. He recalls that Mary Peters did the first issue, but Bill has done it since the second issue.

Bill continues to work in the computer lab at Shoreline Community College and spends time with his wife, Mary, who is ill with complications from diabetes.

Carolyn Blount

"Bill has just retired from his volunteer position of formatting the Fiske Newsletter."



FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK AND PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS

- Basic Course in Genealogy, Vol. I & 2
- Beginning your Family History in Great Britain
- Cemetery Records of Thurston County, WA
- Child Life in Colonial Days
- Daniel Lane 2nd, pub. 1899
- Douglas co. Gen. Soc periodical Fall of 1992
- Finnish American History of the West (many issues covering many areas)
- From Puritan to Yankee (CT)
- GA Genealogical Magazine (3 copies)
- Golden Gulch (Montana)
- History and Families of Livingston Co., Kentucky
- History of Maine
- History of Pierce Co., Wash. (3 volumes)
- History of Suffolk Co., NY
- History of Walla Walla Co., WA
- History of Windham Co., CT., Vol. I
- History of Windham, Maine
- Ida Co., Iowa (publication)
- Kroll Map series for Seattle & Vicinity
- Lane, Reyner & Whipple Families, pub. 1857
- Legendary Connecticut
- Maine Families in 1790, Vol. 6 & 7
- McLean Co. Ill, quarterly
- Medina, Wash. (Lakelure)
- Minnesota Genealogist (periodical), Winter 2000
- Moncrief Family
- Nat. Gen. Soc. Quarterly, March 2001
- NEHGS Ancestors, Summer 2001
- NGS Newsmagazine, May/June 2001
- Niagara Co. Gen. Soc. publication
- Norwegian Tracks
- Notebook of Anne Arundel Co., Maryland
- Nova Scotia 1770 Census
- Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers 1769-1812
- Ohio Gen. Society Publication



- Old Landmarks & Historic Personages of Boston
- Oregon Historical Society quarterly
- Out on a Limb (Post family)
- Power of the Crown in Valley of Hudson (N.Y.)
- Representative Citizens of Seattle, King County
- Rhode Island
- Roots & Branches (Religious Heritage of Wash. State)
- Shaking your Family Tree
- Social Bluebook of Seattle 1965-66
- Talkeetna Alaska Cronies
 - The Immigrant in 1887 (Nordstrom)
 - The Maine Genealogist, May 2001
 - The Proctors in America 1790-1997
 - The Report (Ohio) Publication
 - U.S. Vital Records catalog
 - Wash. Co. Ind. Newsletters
 - Weakly Co., Tennessee publications
 - Whispers from Old Genesee, ID

Our sincere thanks to all those who so kindly donated books and publications including:

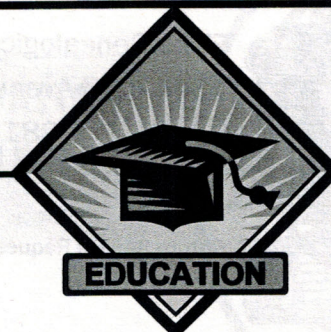
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WINTER EDUCATION SESSIONS 2002

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION

Continuing Education in Genealogy and Family History

(206)-328-2716



All classes will be held from 10:00 am to 12 Noon in the Library at 1644 43rd Avenue East 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.

Jan.	09	Doing Genealogy in Minnesota
Jan.	16	Finding Baptist Church Records
Jan.	23	New York City in the Civil War By Karl Kumm
Jan.	30	Oklahoma and the Settlement of Indian Territory
Feb.	06	Adoption Research By Sarah Little
Feb.	13	Doing Hudson Valley Research
Feb.	20	Genealogy Tips and Problem Solving A Student Discussion of Personal Success
Feb.	27	Genealogy of Southwestern Germany
Mar.	06	Using Newspapers in Genealogical Research An update by Mary Peters
Mar.	13	Fraternal and Benevolent Society Records

BEGINNING GENEALOGY

Drop-in sessions for beginners on the basics of getting started in family history research will be offered on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, in the Library.

There is no tuition, but participants will be asked to pay at cost for their handouts. The instructor is Mary Peters, Director of Education.

www.fiske.lib.wa.us