

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION



INSIDE THIS ISSUE: ANOTHER DOUBLE ISSUE

Research	
One Billion Historical Record Images Online	1
Two Billion Holding Records in WorldCat	2
Maps to Enhance Your Search	2
Fold3 Now Has WWI Officer Experience	7
Tennessee State Public Library Adds More than 1,500 Digitized and Searchable Family Bibles Online	15
Articles	
Editor's Note	11
Do You Have Library Experience?	2
Thank You To Our Patrons	2
The First Woman To...	14-15
City Directories—A Genealogical Treasure	5, 7, 8-9
The Genealogy of New England Towns	12-13
Fall Classes	
Worlds of our Ancestors	3-5
Books	
Summer Acquisitions	6-7
Two New Research Guides Written by DAR	11
Fiske—General	
Fiske Board Members	2
Library Hours	10
Newsletter & Patronage	10
Our Appreciation For Book Donations	10
Driving Directions to Fiske Library	16

SUMMER 2014 VOLUME 21 NUMBER 4

FALL 2014 VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1

One Billion Historical Record Images

Contributed by Gary Zimmerman

On June 23, 2014, FamilySearch.org announced that it had published the one billionth image of historic records on its website. The notice goes on to observe that each digital image may have several historic records on it, so there are probably billions of records already available on their website. Not all of them are indexed yet.

In 1938, the precursor of FamilySearch began to preserve historical genealogical records on microfilm and began distributing copies of that film to their network of local FamilySearch centers. This network currently has 4600 FamilySearch Centers.

In 2007, FamilySearch began shifting to digital preservation of records and soon they began to publish those records online.

Their press release notes that it took 58 years to publish the first 2 billion images on microfilm and access to those images was restricted to the local FamilySearch centers and those libraries that have an affiliation arrangement with the organization. It took just 7 years to publish the first billion digital images online. The press release suggests that it will take only 3 to 5 years to publish the second billion images.

Seventy percent of the current online images have come from conversion of microfilm images to a digital format. Twenty-five percent comes from new camera operations. The Church currently has 275 camera teams working in 45 countries to bring new records to the internet. Five percent of the images at familysearch.org come from agreements with partnering organizations.

It used to take about 18 months to make a historic document available on microfilm in one of the public access points. Using new technology, the time required for making the camera image in the original archive repository to its availability online is now about 2 to 4 weeks.

There is more information about this dynamic effort to bring historical records from across the globe into easy reach of your computer at the FamilySearch news office. The story can be found at <https://familysearch.org/node/2555>.

Two Billion Holding Records in WorldCat

Contributed by Gary Zimmerman

On May 4, 2014, the University of Alberta Libraries added the 2 billionth holding record to the WorldCat database. This is the same database that records the holdings of the Fiske Genealogical Library. When you use the search box at the top of the Fiske Library Home Page, you are effectively searching in these 2 billion records across the globe.

WorldCat responds to your query by noting that you are connected to the Fiske Library and it will return information about the Fiske holdings first. Then it goes on to look for items in other libraries across the globe that are relevant to your search terms. The database keeps expanding and your chances of finding new resources get better with each passing day.

The lesson here is to keep going back to look for topics that you have searched previously to see if new materials have been located.

Do you have Library Experience?

We are currently seeking volunteers with library experience. If you would like to join our team of volunteers with varying levels of expertise and lots of enthusiasm, please contact Gary Zimmerman or Mary Peters.

Thank you to our Patrons

A **BIG** thank you to our patrons who donated computers for library use. We also appreciate the generous donation for book rebinding. We depend upon your support in our effort to continually make improvements to the Fiske Library.

Maps to Enhance Your Research

Contributed by Gary Zimmerman

The University of Richmond in Virginia offers a digital version of the Atlas of Historical Geography of the United States. Although it was first published in 1932, the digital maps and tables offer impressive opportunities to learn about the growth of the nation and all aspects of the economic and historical diversity of the country.

There are over 700 individual maps in 166 plates. There are 33 maps on the natural environment, 47 maps documenting the evolving quality of maps about North America and then a long list of maps and tables about exploration and settlement of the continent, location of churches and colleges, and visual ways to sense how each part of the country voted in national elections, how industry and commerce developed, and the story of American military history.

Enjoy it at <http://dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlas/>

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**DUE TO
CONSTRUCTION
IN FISKE
LIBRARY,**

*Classes are held
from
10:00 am to 12 Noon
in Pioneer Hall at
1642 43rd Avenue E.
in Seattle (above the
Fiske Library) and*

***Classes noted in
bold are held on
Thursday.***

*Tuition is \$5 per
class or \$35 per
quarter. An annual
library pass with
educational
privileges is \$85.*

FALL 2014 CLASSES: WORLDS OF OUR ANCESTORS

Fall 2014	Topic	Instructor
Wednesday September 17	Writing Our Family Stories: <i>The Last of the Blacksmiths</i> by Claire Gebben	Claire Gebben
Wednesday September 24	World Fairs and Exhibitions	Maureen MacDonald
Thursday October 2	Social History -- a Path Around Your Brick Walls Note: Different Date	Gary Zimmerman
Wednesday October 8	"An Apple a Day": Public Health in Earlier Times	Maureen MacDonald
Wednesday October 15	Hereditary & Lineage Organizations, Part I	Gary Zimmerman
Wednesday October 22	Field Trip to MOHAI's "Sophie Frye Bass" Library	Carolyn Marr Meet at Sophie Frye Bass Library 5933 6th Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98108
Wednesday October 29	Hereditary & Lineage Organizations, Part II	Gary Zimmerman
Thursday November 6	Researching Religious Minorities	Gary Zimmerman
Wednesday November 12	The Library of Congress -- a Gift to Genealogists	Karl Kumm
Wednesday November 19	Collecting Oral Histories	Stephen Baylor

SATURDAY CLASSES

Fall 2014	Topic	Instructor	Location	Tuition
September 20	Starting Your Genealogical Search (Part 1)	Lou Daly	Pioneer Hall 1642 43rd Ave E. Seattle 98112	\$5
October 11	Genealogica Italiana: Researching Italian Records	Janet Camarata	Pioneer Hall 1642 43rd Ave E. Seattle 98112	\$5
November 1	Czech and Slovak Genealogy	Rosie Bodien	Pioneer Hall 1642 43rd Ave E. Seattle 98112	\$5

Fall Class Focus: Worlds of our Ancestors

Among the various approaches to genealogy, one of the most useful -- and enjoyable -- can be learning about social contexts. The Fiske Genealogy Library's collection is broader than books with just local or family data, holding also books on the cultural milieu and historical events that surrounded our ancestors. The fall class series touches on topics to help those writing about their families or wanting a fuller picture of their times.

Author Claire Gebben kicks things off with a talk about how she researched and wrote her historical novel *The Last of the Blacksmiths*, set in mid-19th century Germany and America and was inspired by letters from her immigrant forefather.

Maureen MacDonald will treat us to two special subjects with "World Fairs and Exhibitions" and "An Apple a Day." The latter looks at how families dealt with historic public health issues and crises.

Gary Zimmerman will teach four classes. The first is on how to bring social history to bear on one's brick wall problems. He's also planned a two-part lecture on hereditary and lineage organizations, encompassing ship and settler societies, national and ethnic clubs, and fraternal groups such as the Masons and Knights Templar. His final talk is on researching religious minorities in America.

The Library of Congress website offers a wealth of social/cultural background, which Karl Kumm will show us how to efficiently find. Stephen Baylor will speak on how to record oral histories -- a great way to preserve the life stories of individuals.

Fall Class Focus: Worlds of our Ancestors

Continued from page 4

Our fall field trip is a tour of the Sophie Frye Bass Library of Seattle’s Museum of History and Industry. They’ve archived over 3 million historic photographs there, including the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer’s* collection.

Saturday classes will continue to focus on skills and national heritages. Rosie Bodien will teach Czech and Slovak research; Janet Camarata will cover families from Italy. Lou Daly will conduct her beginner’s class -- an excellent introduction for anyone wanting to learn or refresh their genealogical skills. And for those starting or in the midst of a biographical writing project, come hear Karl Kumm on how to organize and keep yourself on track.

Class dates, times and locations are posted on the Fiske website and in this newsletter. Please mark your calendars and join us in a few historical journeys this fall!

Gretchen Furber
Education Coordinator

City Directories – A Genealogical Treasure

Contributed by Cindy Walton

WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN A CITY DIRECTORY?

More than you think! Check out this list for some of the things you will find:

List of householders & principal tenants in apts	Directory of cemeteries
Street directory	List of city officials
Ward boundaries	Classified list of businesses
Map of the city	List of fraternal and social organizations
Directory of churches	City laws or ordinances

City directories are generally helpful for locating people in a particular time and place. They are user-friendly and are a significant source of information. It is important to refer to the pages showing abbreviations. Some are common, like using “h” for home or “r” for residence. Others are not as common, such as “pntr” for painter.

Most directories were printed every year. You can still find city directories published today but in some areas they are only produced every two years. Smaller towns may be included in directories with nearby larger cities.

Research Tip: you may find someone who was listed in the directory but not listed in a census. Each individual publisher largely determined who was included in a directory. By the middle of the 1800s, almost any adult male living in the city was included. Widows were usually listed. Some directories included males who worked in the city and lived elsewhere. By the last third of the century, single adult females were also being included in many directories. By the end of the 19th century, most directories were including the names of the wives. By the early part of the 20th century, college students’ names were also included.

Continued on page 7

Fiske Library SUMMER Acquisitions

Newly acquired books are processed by cataloging, entering the Fiske Library holding information into WorldCat, 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.

ATLANTIC SEABOARD STATES

County of Cortland NY abstracts (collected from Tree Talks Magazine) [F127.C85 T74 2000]

Genealogical Collection of South Carolina wills and records, Volume 1 (with tombstone inscriptions of Old Little River Church, Abbeville County, SC) [F268 .Y6 1969]

Revolutionary Soldiers of Catholic Presbyterian Church, Chester County SC [F277.C55 S77 1978]

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Abstracts from "History of Adams County, Ohio" by Evans and Stiver [F497.A2 B75]

Logan County, Ohio 1982 [F497.L8 L64 1983]

Cemetery Names and Locations in Sangamon County IL [F547.S3 C45 1989]

Early Federal Land Sales (within the present boundaries of Sangamon Co IL) [F547.S3 E23 1978]

Estate Record Index, Sangamon County IL 1821-1907 [F547.S3 E88 1989]

Illiopolis Centennial 1856-1956 (Illiopolis IL) [F549 .I4 1956]

Index to Record of Letters and Wills, Sangamon County IL 1850-1901 [F547.S3 I53 1988]

Marriage Records, Sangamon County IL [F547.S3 M37]

Guide to the first fifty years of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine [F574.D453 A24 1990]

Commemorative Biographical Records of prominent men of Racine and Kenosha counties, Wisconsin [F587.R2 C65 1906]

FAMILY GENEALOGIES

Allens of the southern states [CS71.A43 1989a]

Stovall Journal (New periodical 1997-2004) [CS71.S88948]

EUROPE

Irish Roots [CS480 .I74]

The Irish at home and abroad (new periodical, v 1-6) [CS480 .I75]

Burrishoole Parish, County Mayo, Ireland – 1832 Tithe Applotment Book transcription and index, revised edition [DA990.B87 M37 2004]

FISKE LIBRARY SUMMER ACQUISITIONS CONTINUED

Pocket Irish Atlas [G1830 .A5 1987]

Genealogical Atlas of Ireland, 2nd edition
[G1830 .G27x 1972]

REFERENCE RESOURCES

2001 NGS Conference in the States – Program
syllabus [CS2 .N38 2001]

How to search a cemetery [CS16 .G470 1974]

Applied Genealogy [CS16 .S854 1988]

Solving American Pedigrees: American property
records – Land and Tax Records [CS66.S69 E247
1973x]

Clues to American Dress [GT603 .H37 1994]

City Directories—A Genealogical Treasure

Continued on page 8

WHERE CAN I FIND CITY DIRECTORIES?

State libraries

- Local or regional libraries
- Educational institution collections
- Digital copies – see www.archive.org

SO WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?

- ◆ Use it to link with other information you have gathered
- ◆ Compare with census data to verify or obtain new information
- ◆ Look for patterns over time that may give you more insight into probate or burial dates than census information
- ◆ You may also gain insight into marriage and birth data through serial directories

Fold3 Now Has WWI Officer Experience Reports

Contributed by Cindy Walton

Have you ever wondered what life was like for American Soldiers in Europe during WWI? Try looking through the new collection at Fold3, [Officer Experience Reports](#). The blog at Fold 3 reports that these are personal narratives by engineering officers of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) that give an exclusive perspective of situations and events in the war.

AEF Engineers had a variety of tasks overseas such as building and keeping up roads, managing sawmills and lumber businesses, running narrow-gauge railways, and working on construction projects. Engineers often served near the front lines during their assignments, often while under fire from German artillery.

Below is an excerpt from an Officer Experience Report mentioned on the blog, written by Captain William J Millard:

“Company C suffered four casualties, one wounded by machine gun, one by shell, and one gassed. Practically fourteen months of work was done in the forward area or advance zone, continually under artillery fire. During the March offensive the company was subject to bombing and shelling for about six days. Many of the men worked 72 hours straight, endeavoring to save railway equipment during the retreat. They were highly commended by the British authorities.”

Want to know more? Check out Fold3 at http://www.fold3.com/title_764/wi_officer_experience_reports_aef/ to find this and other interesting stories.

City Directories – A Genealogical Treasure

Continued on page 9

Below is a snippet from a 1921 Tacoma, Washington City Directory Online (<http://distantcousin.com/Directories/WA/Tacoma/1921/A.html>). At the bottom of the page in capital letters is listed Aubry &

Aubry Alfred A (Hilda) (Aubry & Sons) h 1002 Division av
 " Emily J r 4615 S Yakima av
 " Eva r 3221 Pacific av
 " Eva Mrs (Aubry & Kelly) h 1002 Division av
 " Geo (Nellie) cook h 1727 So E
 " Jos E (Jeanette) auto rpr 2105 So C h 3221 Pacific av
 " J N S switchmn r 2407 Pacific av
 " Leo N (Veda H) (Aubry & Sons) h 1002 Division av
 " Ronald (Eva) (Aubry & Sons) h 1002 Division av
 " Rudolph E (Mabel K) pntr h 414 S 33d
 " Wilfrid H (Alice M) mech h 3811 So E
 " & Kelly (E Aubry E Kelly) art gds 1115 So K
AUBRY & SONS (Ronald, Leo N and Alfred A Aubry) Auto Repairing, Machinists, Blacksmiths, Dynamos, Electricians, 2102 So C, Tel Main 2743, Night Tel Main 9022

Sons (Ronald, Leo N and Alfred A Aubry). As you peruse the other listings you can see that Ronald and his wife Eva and sons Leo N. (Veda H) and Alfred A. (Hilda) are all living at the same address. Now I could stop here but what would be the fun in that? Mrs. Eva Aubry (Aubry & Kelly) has the same address as Ronald & Eva Aubry. *So now I have a mystery* – is there a business that Eva was involved in, and if so, who is the business partner, Kelly? There is a listing for E Aubry and E Kelly, art gds 1115 So K. The abbreviation list shows “gds” as “goods”. This is the second time the name Kelly has come up. Who is the mysterious E. Kelly of E. Aubry & E. Kelly?. Hmmh. Let’s keep looking.

Let’s move on to compare the 1921 Tacoma City Directory with the 1920 U.S. Federal census. There is similar information about the household of Ronald Aubry. However, the census does not give me the full name of Ronald’s wife. Thus, the city directory has given me additional information. I also noticed in the 1920 census that Hilda Aubry is not listed but she is listed in the 1921 directory. It is possible that Alfred A. and Hilda were married between 1920 and 1921. As a matter of fact, the WA

Marriage Records, 1865-2004 confirm that Alfred A. Aubry and Hilda E. Matzek were married on March 17, 1921 in King County, WA.

1920 U.S. Federal census, Washington, Pierce County, Tacoma, Ward 2, District 0256, Enumerated on the 6th day of January 1920

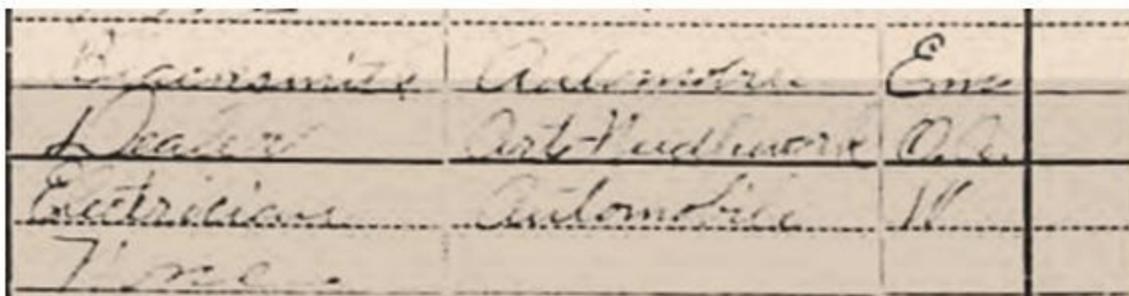
PLACE OF ABODE.				NAME of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.	RELATION. Relationship of this person to the head of the family.
Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number or farm, etc. (See Instructions.)	Number of dwelling house in order of visitation.	Number of family in order of visitation.		

1002	52	107	Aubry Ronald	Head
			Eva E	Wife
			Leo N.	Son
			Veda H.	Daughter-in-law
			Alfred A.	Son

City Directories – A Genealogical Treasure

Now let's look at more of the 1920 census information and compare it with the 1921 city directory:

OCCUPATION.		
Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, salesman, laborer, etc.	Industry, business, or establishment in which at work, as cotton mill, dry goods store, farm, etc.	Employer, salary or wage worker, or working on own account.
26	27	28



Beginning from the left top row:

- Ronald Aubry is identified as a self-employed blacksmith in the automobile industry
- Eva Aubry (Mrs. Ronald Aubry) is identified as working on her own account in arts-needlework
- Leo N. Aubry (son of Ronald & Eva) is an electrician in the automobile industry and is identified as a worker
- Veda H Aubry (wife of Leo N.) stays at home

Now I have additional information about the family. Ronald is a blacksmith and Leo is an electrician. Eva and E Kelley have their own business working in needlework—Mystery solved!

I know so much more about this family and their lives than by using the census alone. I had a lot of fun and I am sure that you will too.



1920 Coupe: Image courtesy of "The Henry Ford", 2006

FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

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 and 4th Sunday of every month

OUR APPRECIATION FOR BOOK DONATIONS

We appreciate the contributions by the following supporters of the Fiske Library. Since the last newsletter, the donated titles 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. All of our holdings that have been catalogued may be located through the WorldCat catalog, available from the home page of the Fiske Library website.

Carolyn Blount

Gloria Peck Brown

Eastside Genealogical
Society

Sue Eidal Estate

Mary Ferm

Judith Gunderson

Margaret Moore

Euretta Shirley

Jimi Vernie

Gary A. Zimmerman

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

Two New Research Guides Written by DAR

Contributed by Mary Peters

With the Mercer Girls Chapter of NSDAR donations to the Fiske Library, two new research guides have been purchased. The latest acquisitions include South Carolina and Georgia. Currently there are 16 lineal feet of books about the Revolutionary War in the collection. Others may be found in the state holdings.

Descriptions from the DAR website:

South Carolina in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians by Eric Grundset (E263.S7 G78 2013)

Provides detailed information on the availability of manuscript and archival material that exists for the Palmetto State for the period of the Revolutionary War along with listings of historical and genealogical studies that have been published and which supplement the original sources. It is the most extensive gathering of such information ever published, and researchers will find it an essential resource with which to identify materials and studies located in many scattered libraries and archives. The book comprises more than 550 pages including table of contents, text pages, map pages, and an index to the text.

Georgia in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians by Eric Grunset (E263.G3 G78 2013)

Provides detailed information on the availability of manuscript and archival material that exists for the state for the period of the Revolutionary War along with listings of historical and genealogical studies that have been published and which supplement the original sources. It is the most extensive gathering of such information ever published, and researchers will find it an essential resource with which to identify materials and studies located in many scattered libraries and archives. The book comprises more than 300 pages including text pages, map pages, and an index to the text.

Editor's Note

Contributed by Cindy Walton

Last month (July 2014) was a double issue: Winter 2013, Vol. 22, Number 2 and Spring 2014 Vol. 22, Number 3.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to a transition in editors, that issue was incorrectly numbered. It should be: **Winter 2013, Vol. 21, Number 2 and Spring 2014, Vol. 21, Number 3.**

This double issue is correctly numbered. The newsletter year begins with the Fall edition and is usually published during the four quarters of the year. The next issue will be a single issue published in Winter 2015.

If you would like to submit a news item or article please send it to the address below:

editor@fiskelibrary.org

Thank you!
Cindy Walton
Editor

The Genealogy of New England Towns

Contributed by Gary Zimmerman

As the population of colonial Massachusetts grew, new towns would be created so that residents would never be far from the center of their local government. In the course of an individual's life span, his or her home community may have undergone several name changes without his actual residence changing very much.

This becomes an important factor when searching for the vital records of a New England resident. From the earliest settlement of Massachusetts a resident would register with the local town clerk the birth of a child, the marriage of a couple, and the death of a person. In the mid-nineteenth Century, the state legislature directed each town to publish their vital records prior to 1850. Over 200 of the 364 separate towns in the state complied with this directive. Most of those volumes are now available as free digital copies at www.archive.org or at www.books.google.com. (Just do a search for the name of the town followed by the words "vital records." For example, search for [Abington vital records].)

In the introductory pages of each of the volumes, there is a description of the new towns split off from that specific town and the time when such changes were made. A genealogist seeking specific information about one individual needs to be mindful of these urban boundary changes to accurately locate the correct vital records.

The town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, in Plymouth County was established as a township in June, 1856, from a part of Duxbury called the New Plantation. In 1662 and again in 1690, additional lands were granted to the town. In June, 1712, a portion of Bridgewater was included in the new town of Abington. In 1770 and again in 1798 parts of the town of Stoughton were annexed to Bridgewater. In 1821, a portion of Bridgewater was set off as the new town of North Bridgewater. (Later, North Bridgewater changed its name to Brockton, Massachusetts.) In 1822, another portion of Bridgewater was set off as the town of West Bridgewater and in 1823, a third portion became East Bridgewater.

In 1824, another portion of the town was transferred to the town of Halifax.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE TOWN OF HALIFAX, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, was incorporated 14 July, 1734 (New Style). It was formed from parts of the towns of Middleborough, Pembroke and Plympton. On 20 February, 1824, a part of the town of Bridgewater was annexed to Halifax, and on 16 March, 1831, a part of the town of Plympton was annexed. On 11 April, 1857, a part of Halifax was annexed to East Bridgewater and the bounds between the two towns established. On 6 February, 1863, the bounds between Halifax and Plympton were established, and a part of each town was annexed to the other town.

The Genealogy of New England Towns

The publication of a new town's vital records will have further changes for that jurisdiction. Abington subsequently transferred part of its territory to Hanover in 1727 and in 1847 clarified its boundaries with the town of Weymouth.

THE TOWN OF ABINGTON, Plymouth County, was established June 10, 1712, from a part of Bridgewater and certain lands adjoining.

June 14, 1727, part was included in the new town of Hanover.

March 31, 1847, bounds between Abington and Weymouth were established.

Vital records have been published for each of these towns. In the process of preparing the response to the legislative request for publication, more than just the official town vital records from the clerk's office were included. Some town's included details from the town's various cemeteries, from events recorded in the various churches, and in some cases, solicited private correspondence which detailed vital events for individual residents. Each volume in the vital records has a brief index of abbreviations for the sources of the facts in that specific town. The abbreviation codes vary from one town to the next, so it is important to check the front portion of each publication that you use in your research.

ABBREVIATIONS

a. — age
abt. — about
b. — born
bp. — baptized
bur. — buried
ch. — child
chn. — children
 C.R.1. — church record, First Church of Abington
 C.R.2. — church record, Second Church of Christ in Abington
 C.R.3. — church record, Third Church of Christ in Abington,
 now Rockland
 C.R.4. — church record, Fourth Congregational Church in
 Abington
 C.R.5. — church record, First Baptist Church of Christ in
 Abington

THE FIRST WOMAN TO...

Contributed by Michele Genthon

Often patrons of Fiske Library search for colonial relatives. Because of the expertise of the staff, many leave with relevant information: names, dates of birth, marriages, but seldom with the stories of their ancestors. Even if they do find stories, it is usually about the male members of the family. There are, however, stories about a few women whose history survived. On my blog *The First Woman To...* I write of American women firsts. As a result of my own research, I have accumulated some stories of colonial women that I can share. Chronologically, here is a sampling:

The first woman born in the United States was **Virginia Dare**. Her mother was Eleanora, daughter of John White, founder of the Roanoke Colony. Born on August 18, 1587, she was named Virginia because she was the first Christian born in Virginia. John White, her grandfather, sailed to England for supplies but was delayed because of the war with Spain. When he finally returned, on Virginia's third birthday, the colony had collapsed and there were no survivors that could be located.

Almost a half-century later, in 1639, **Lady Deborah Moody**, a widow, arrived in Saugus, Massachusetts. Fleeing religious persecution, she was admonished by the Puritan leaders for holding to her Baptist beliefs. She led a group of religious dissenters to the Dutch colony of New Netherland in 1643 and founded Gravesend (currently a part of Brooklyn). She was the only woman to found a colonial settlement in early North America. Her group was granted religious freedom, unusual in that period, and they gravitated toward the Quaker faith.

A friend of the governor Peter Stuyvesant, she became the first woman to own land in the New World. Her influence in society led the men to label her "a dangerous woman."

Margaret Brent settled in St. Mary's City, Maryland in 1638 and became the first woman in the colonies to own land in her own name. Because of the size of her land holdings she had considerable influence and Lord Calvert, Governor of the Maryland Colony appointed her executrix of his estate. Lord Baltimore, Calvert's brother, became proprietor of the Maryland Colony in 1648 and the Provincial Court appointed Margaret Brent attorney-in-fact for Lord Baltimore. Margaret sold some of their assets to pay soldiers who had been safeguarding the colony.

Margaret Brent attended the provincial assembly in 1648 and demanded two votes, one as Lord Baltimore's representative and one as a landowner. Although English law provided for a vote for women under these circumstances, the assembly denied that women should have this right. However, when Lord Baltimore objected to Margaret Brent's decisions regarding his properties, the assembly defended her.

Margaret Hardenbroeck arrived from Germany in 1659. She lived in the Dutch colony of New Netherland and wed Pieter Devries, a wealthy shipper, merchant, and trader. At that time New Amsterdam allowed women to work and did not strip them of their property when they wed; so, when he died, Margaret took over his business. She sailed back and forth across the Atlantic to manage her financial affairs and was the wealthiest woman in New Amsterdam.

As Margaret approached a second marriage to Frederick Philipse, the Orphan Masters of New Amsterdam insisted Margaret present an inventory of the assets of the inheritance her daughter had received from her father. They delayed her wedding until a settling, but she claimed her accounts were in disarray and could not provide documentation. At this point, she was pregnant so Philipse signed a pre-nuptial document guaranteeing that Margaret's daughter would be an heir of his, equal to the children he produced with Margaret. Margaret entered the marriage under *usus*, roughly equivalent to today's pre-nuptial agreement. She retained her ships, property, and personal belongings.

THE FIRST WOMAN TO...

Mary White of Somersetshire, England arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and settled at Salem. They moved to Lancaster, on the Massachusetts frontier in 1653. She married Rev. Joseph **Rowlandson** and produced four children. In 1682 she was captured by the Native Americans during King Philip's War. The price of her ransom (£20) was raised by the women of Boston in a public subscription and, after eleven weeks she was freed. We know her story because she wrote about it in the book *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God: Being a Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*. The book had four printings and was perhaps the first American bestseller.

In the following century **Eliza Lucas Pinckney** changed agriculture in colonial South Carolina. Raised in Antigua, in the British West Indies, she was sent to England for schooling. In 1738, when she was sixteen, the family moved to Carolina while England and Spain were at war. When her father returned to Antigua, Eliza was left in charge of the plantations in Carolina. Eliza and her father searched for a crop to supplement the rice grown by the farmers. They tried ginger, cotton and alfalfa, and finally settled on indigo. Eliza managed growing, production, and exporting of the crop and by the start of the Revolutionary War, indigo provided more than a third of the income from exports for the Carolina colony—one more of women's contributions to colonial and pre-revolutionary America.

To read more stories about women, go to the blog <http://www.thefirstwomanto.com>.

NEXT ISSUE: WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Tennessee State Public Library Adds More Than 1,500 Digitized and Searchable Family Bibles Online

Contributed by Cindy Walton

The following article is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright 2014 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

Before the 20th century, Tennessee and many other states did not keep comprehensive records of births, marriages, and deaths. Families recorded their own vital records in family Bibles that were passed down through generations. The Tennessee State Library and Archives holds hundreds of family Bible records in several formats and within many collections. The Bible records recently placed online were taken from photocopies in TSLA's vertical files; additional records will be added as they are donated or discovered in manuscripts collections. The bulk of the records in this collection date between the late 18th and early 20th century. Many prominent Tennessee families are represented here; some records even include the names of families' slaves.

The Bibles may be found at <http://tnsos.net/TSLA/Bibleproject>.

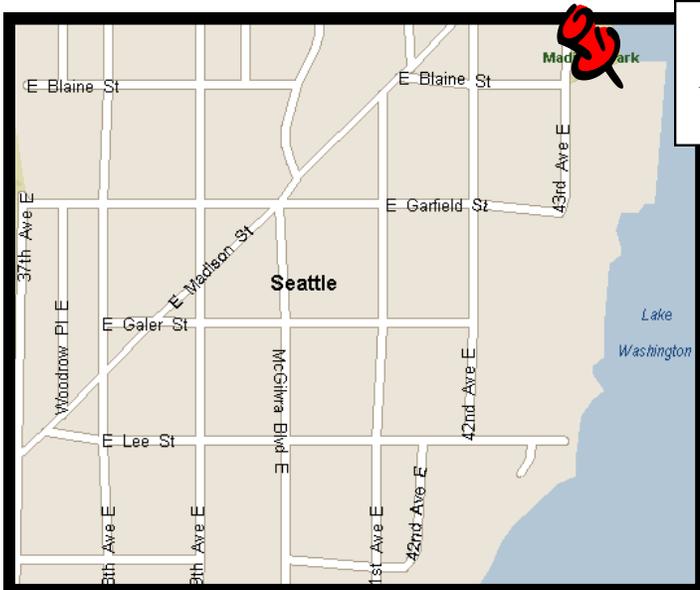


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- Drive east on E Madison Street to the third crosswalk after reduced speed zone of 25mph. The crosswalk has a yellow blinking light. A one-way street sign is on your right.
- Turn right and follow E Blaine Street to the end of the street.
- The Washington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