



FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION

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Pioneer Association Anniversary

Pioneer Association celebrated a 150 years since its founding as a formal organization by holding an on-line Zoom meeting on March 27, 2021. Two different presentations were presented to an invisible audience who had tuned into the electronic program. The first speaker was Professor Coll Thrush, who spoke to us from Vancouver, British Columbia, where he is a professor of history at the University of British Columbia. His presentation was entitled "A Tale of Three Cities: Urban History, Settler Colonialism, and Indigenous Survivance in Seattle, Vancouver, and Victoria. While each town has its own history, Dr. Thrush focused on the commonalities that exist in each of these three communities. While looking at the local history of each of the three cities, he focused on the urban development as it was developing about one hundred years ago. After his presentation, there was time for questions from the audience at a distance.

After a short break, a second program was presented by Carolyn Blount, who has given long service to the Board of the Fiske Genealogical Library. Caroline's talk focused on the large portrait that has hung over the fireplace on the main floor in Pioneer Hall that portrays the family of Dillis Burgess Ward (who was President of the Pioneer Association in 1901) and his family.

The portrait can be viewed at <https://wapioneers.com/detail/galleryImageDetail.php?gid=65>

Carolyn is a great granddaughter of Dillis Ward and she has done extensive research on the Ward Family and its activity in the growing Seattle community. She presented many photos of her family, many of which she collected while publishing a family history of the last four generations of her family.

~ Gary Zimmerman

The Pioneer Association of Washington owns the building in which Fiske Genealogical Library is housed. You can find out about the organization's history and its current activities at their website: <https://wapioneers.com/>

The Case of the Fabricated Marriage Certificate

Submitted by Helen Barton

In researching my Coleman family, I ran into an interesting conundrum.

Christina Kamm Ballheimer b. 1852, came from Bavaria, Germany in 1883 with two children, Mary and Henry Ballheimer. After marrying Ludwig Schultz on 14 Dec. 1885, she gave birth to daughter Christine in 1887. Christina was having a hard time adjusting to hormonal changes as I understand it. Daughter Christine was left on her own and ran wild. Her half-sister Mary was quite a bit older with challenges and interests of her own.

In the South Omaha neighborhood that the Schultz family lived in, there also lived the Thomas family and possibly the Coleman family. In any case, Christine met a Coleman boy.

Next set of characters.

Children of William Thomas Coleman Jr. and Martha Elizabeth Green (aka Pinkie) Coleman:

Bessie Coleman b. 1885

Lemon Coleman b. 1887 (married Christine Schultz in 1905 and had a daughter Charity b. 18 Sept. 1906.)

Chloe Ethel b. 1888

Charles Marcus Coleman b. 1891

Nancy Jane Coleman b. 1893,

Leo Coleman b. 1898

When I first began researching the Coleman family, I found a marriage certificate in Omaha, Nebraska which gave Leo as the groom. I had been told by my mother that Leo was Charity's father. It took me a long time before I discovered Charity's birth record because she was released from the hospital as "unnamed baby girl Coleman." On her birth record was listed father as Leo Coleman and mother as Tena, a nickname that Christine was using at the time.

Next I began to research Leo John Coleman. I didn't know when or where he was born. The Social Security Death Index and a subsequent birth record showed that Leo was born in Wakeeney, Trego, Kansas 30 June 1898. The Coleman family had gone through a period of instability for several years. Pinkie had become enthralled with a cowboy named Benjamin O. Thomas. Family lore relates a story of Grandfather Marcus De Lafayette Green becoming disgusted with his daughter Pinkie, and the children living with Aunt Nancy Green. The back and forth of the children living with Pinkie and W.T. Coleman when the marriage reconciled and then being shuttled off again to live with the Greens is legendary. That takes a toll on any family.

(Continued on page 4)

The Case of the Fabricated Marriage Certificate

Marriage License
Leo Coleman To Christine Schultz
License # 16041
State of Nebraska SS Douglas County

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA TO ANY PERSON LEGALLY AUTHORIZED
to SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES, GREETING:

You are Hereby Authorized to join in the Holy Bands of Matrimony, and to celebrate within
this County the rites and ceremonies of Marriage between,

Mr. Leo Coleman color White, (script) residing at South Omaha [script] aged 21 [script] years,
born at Iowa [script] His father’s name was William Thomas Coleman [script]
His mother’s maiden name was Martha Green [script],

And

M Christine Schultz [script] color White, (script) residing at South Omaha [script]
aged 18 [script] years, born at“ “ [script]
Her Father’s name was Louis Schultz [script] and
Her mother’s maiden name was Christine Kamm .[script]

State of Nebraska SS Douglas County

Be it Remembered, that at South Omaha, Nebr [script] in said County, on
the 22nd day of July, 1905, Mr. Leo Coleman [Script] residing at South Omaha, Nebr.
Aged 21 years, and M Christine Schultz [script] residing at South Omaha, Nebr.

Aged 18 years, were duly joined in Marriage by me, in presence of Rudolph Herbest, [script]
residing at South Omaha, Nebr [script], and Mary Coulson [script] residing at South Omaha [script],
witnesses present at the ceremony. In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day
of July 1905.

P. C. Caldwell ,
Justice of the Peace [script]

Endorsed: “Filed July 25th 1905 Dimar M. (name not readable—copy too dark. HSB)
Recorded the above Return Aug. 18th 1905 (remainder of copy is unreadable—copy too dark.
HSB)

The Case of the Fabricated Marriage Certificate

(Continued from page 2)

My assessment is that Leo couldn't be the father of Charity, regardless what the marriage record said. He was too young--only eight years old.

According to the Schultz side of the story, the family wanted Christine married so that Charity would have a legitimate birth. Two of the witnesses turn out to be Christine's sister Mary Coulson and Rudolph Herpst--Mary's second husband.

Poor Leo was the family scapegoat. Whatever he did was wrong. For many years no one knew for sure whether his father was the cowboy, Benjamin Thomas, or Pinkie's husband W. T. Coleman. When family members got Leo and W.T. together in 1941, it was clear. They looked exactly alike. W.T. acknowledged that Leo was his son.

Someone in one of the families came up with a satisfactory solution as to who was going to marry Christine. Was it Pinkie who didn't want her oldest son, Lemon, to have a ruined life or perhaps Mary and Rudolph who suggested the ruse?

The parties went to the Justice of the Peace and Lemon Coleman declared himself to be Leo Coleman. I would suggest that no one had to show identification as to who they really were if someone was there to vouch for them. Both parties looked to be old enough and were given permission to marry. End of story. Until a great granddaughter genealogist comes along looking for records to corroborate the facts.

Analyzing the record, there were glaring fabrications. There were no Coleman records in Iowa. Bride and Groom were barely 18, not 21 as the records show for Lemon.

Christine brought Charity to visit the Thomas Family often when Charity was a baby. Christine never told anyone who Charity's father was. My mother, who was told that Leo was her grandfather, met him once. She said that Leo never disputed the fact of the paternity introduction. He never denied being my mother's grandfather. I suggested that Leo had learned the futility of denying stories about himself. He was a gentleman whereas his brother Lemon, perhaps was not.

I believe Charity's father was the older brother, Lemon, and not Leo. It really makes no difference as far as lineage goes, but does illustrate the need for checking every stated fact in formal records as well as family lore.

~ Helen Barton

News on NARA

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson recently reported: “In February, a federal judge in Seattle granted my motion to halt the sale of our local National Archives building — and now, after a year-long battle, the federal government has officially withdrawn its plan to sell the building and move our local records a thousand miles away.

This is a major win. I am proud that as a result of our coalition with tribes and community organizations, these invaluable, original historical records of our region will remain in the Northwest.

Few thought our lawsuit would succeed, but we knew the federal government acted unlawfully when they attempted to sell this facility with no process or public input. We gathered declarations from 79 individuals and organizations and proved our case.

~ Email sent to supporters April 13, 2021.

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. 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>

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NGS 2021 Virtual Family History Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for NGS's premier two-day virtual event—NGS 2021 Live! Wednesday and Thursday, 19 & 20 May—featuring award-winning authors Dani Shapiro and Ric Murphy; an opening session by esteemed genealogist and Virginia expert Barbara Vines Little; and presentations by nationally recognized speakers. NGS 2021 Live! offers the camaraderie of fellow family historians and genealogists who you can chat with online. A virtual Expo Hall featuring great offers from genealogy and family history companies and organizations is also included.

In addition to NGS Live!, we offer a choice of either a twenty- or forty-lecture package you can watch whenever you want starting in mid-June. You can choose from more than eighty-five on-demand sessions available for viewing starting in June. PLUS we include more than 20 bonus sessions from our partners and sponsors.

With your registration you also get access to the [SLAM! Idea Showcase](#), which highlights creative and innovative projects or programs by genealogy societies, libraries, archives, and museums (SLAMs). This event, **Tuesday, 18 May**, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm ET, is a chance to learn more about the research resources available around the country from great genealogy information providers.

See details on the [conference website](#).

Download a [conference brochure](#).

Costs range from \$225—\$475 depending on options and membership in the National Genealogical Society. Refunds will be given for cancellations, but there is a \$50 service fee.

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.

Update on David Brazier & Fiske Library

Some of you may know that David has been dealing with cancer over the past eighteen months. He has responded well and will be done with his current course of treatment in a couple of weeks, at which point he will essentially be well.

He expects to be able to turn his full attention to plans for the re-opening of Fiske Genealogical Library and activities starting in the Fall. At present, please note that you can access the library for research by appointment, or request a lookup. Contact editor@fiskelibrary.org and your request will be passed on to the appropriate person.

Education

At the moment the Board is considering various options for classes during this challenging period of the pandemic. Please check our website at <https://fiskelibrary.org> periodically for the latest news.

Legacy Family Tree User Group

The **Legacy Family Tree User Group** continues to have Zoom meetings on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 1:00 PM and lasting an hour. 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.

The questions we cover run the gamut from the beginner to the more advanced - from how to contact Legacy support, to setting relationships, to moving data from one computer to another, as well as running reports and tagging items etc.

Please feel to ask questions and raise topics you would like us to go over. ~ *Siri Nelson*



FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

Pioneer Hall and the Fiske Genealogical Library are currently closed
 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please check our website for the latest news.
 Email inquiries regarding your research needs may be made to editor@fiskelibrary.org.

Be sure to check our website frequently for late-breaking news on schedule changes or other information not in the current newsletter. <https://fiskelibrary.org/>

Donations and book purchases can be made by credit card on the home page of our website by clicking on the “Donate” button mid-way down the page. If the payment is for anything other than a donation, please note its purpose in the memo or remarks field.

Checks can be made out and mailed to “Fiske Genealogical Foundation” at 1644 43rd Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112-3222. Again, note the purpose on the “memo” line.

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION INFORMATION

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

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

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION FEES

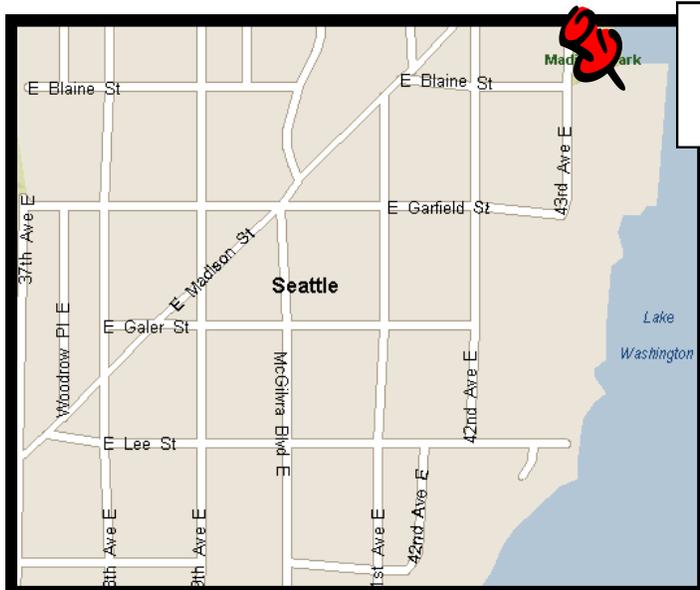
Daily Use Fee \$5.
 Annual Library Pass \$50.
 Annual Family Pass \$70.
 Wednesday Seminar Series
 (10 sessions) \$35.
 Annual Library Pass
 plus Full Year Seminar Series
 (30 sessions) \$85
 Newsletter—Mail Subscription
 \$6 for 4 Issues



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.

