



Fiske Genealogical Foundation

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Ugly Christmas Sweaters and Serious Research!



On Wednesday, December 17, 2025, the Fiske Genealogical Library hosted its first-ever *Ugly Christmas Sweater Research Day*, and it proved to be a cheerful and successful event.

The library itself was festively decorated for the occasion. Holiday lights brightened the columns and a refreshment table dressed in a plaid tablecloth welcomed visitors as they arrived. A miniature Christmas tree, along with a plate of cookies and candy and glasses of sparkling cider helped set a warm and inviting tone for the afternoon.

Visitors and volunteers, (some in holiday sweaters) spent their time making use of Fiske's extensive collection as they researched their family history, enjoyed the seasonal treats, and shared informal conversation and occasional laughter. The relaxed atmosphere made the day especially welcoming for both longtime researchers and first-time visitors.

Attendance was strong, spirits were high and the response was positive. Based on its success this festive research day may well become a new tradition at the Fiske Library. ~Linda Blais



Latest Selection of Books at Fiske Library (Dec. 2025)

Shelf Location	Title	Author
CS71.N66 2024 Part 5	The Nickerson Family, the Descendants of William Nickerson, Part 5: Samuel, The 8 th generation with vital statistics of the 9 th generation including allied families	Nickerson Family Association
CS809.D336 2007	Flemish DNA & Ancestry, History of three families over five centuries using conventional and genetic genealogy	Deboeck, Guido J.
DA190.D7 E5 1971, Vol 1 & 2	A General Introduction to Domesday Book: Accompanied by Indexes of the Tenants in Chief and Under Tenants. In Two Volumes	Ellis, Sir Henry
E184.B7 B25 1976	Voyagers to the West, A Passage in the Peopling of America on the Eve of the Revolution	Bailyn, Bernard
E184.G3 B3 1990	Before Germanna, The Ancestry of the Sheible, Peck, Milker Smith and Hold Families	Cerny, Johni & Zimmerman Gary J.
E255.H48 1893	Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution, April 1775 to December 1783 (Reprint)	Heitman, F.B.
F180.M393 1979	The Maryland Original Research Society of Baltimore <i>Bulletins</i> 1, 2 & 3	Richardson, Albert Levin, Editor
F340.D39 2018	Research in Michigan, NGS Research in the States Series, publication No. 92	DeBoer, Shirley <
F44.P8 S77 1997	Strawberry Banke Portsmouth, New Hampshire	
F277.S7 S69 1983 V.1	Spartanburg County, S.C. Cemetery Survey, Volume One	Pinckney Chapter of the S.C. Genealogical Society
F332.C68 C68 1985	Old Land Records of Colbert County, Alabama	Cowart, Margaret Matthews
F443.S5 E4 1995 V. 3	Gravestone Inscriptions from Shelby County Tennessee Cemeteries Vol. 3	Nichols, Elizabeth Riggins & West, Betsy Foster, Editors
F527.I57 2003	Indiana in Stereo, Three-Dimensional Views of the Heartland	Hanlin, George R., Corpuz, Paula J., Editors
F532.C5 H6 1984	Clark County Cemeteries (Indiana), companion publication of The Clark County Special	The Hoosier Journal of Ancestry
F532.W45 F7 1987	Washington County, Indiana Franklin Township Cemeteries	Washington County Historical Society

Shelf Location	Title	Author
F532.W45 G5 1983	Washington County, Indiana Gibson Township (Death Records, Old Church Records, Gravestones, Obituaries, Mortuary Records, Marriage Records)	Washington County Historical Society
F532.W45 M6 1985	Washington County, Indiana Monroe Township Cemeteries	Washington County Historical Society
F899.S46 2007	Let's Take a Walk! A Tour of Seattle's Central Area, As It Was Then (1920s, 1930s and 1940s)	Lawson, Jacqueline E.A.
G1400.A5 1968	Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana	Indiana Historical Society
G1403.W5 1860	1860 Wall Map & 1878 Atlas of Washington Co., Indiana	
G1405.W32 1876	Atlas of the State of Illinois 1876 (1994 Reprint)	
G1415.S55 1878	Historical Atlas of Wisconsin Embracing Complete State and County Maps City & Village Plats	
PE1667.K325 2002	Altered English, Surprising Meanings of Familiar Words	Kacirk, Jeffrey

Award-Winning Nickerson Genealogy Added to Fiske Collection

The Fiske Genealogical Library has expanded its genealogical holdings with the addition of *The Nickerson Family, the Descendants of William Nickerson, Part 5: Samuel*, recently donated by Fiske volunteer Linda Blais. The library already holds Parts One and Two of this multi-volume genealogy, and the new addition strengthens its resources for researchers studying early New England families.

Published by the Nickerson Family Association in 2024, the *Nickerson Family* series documents the descendants of William and Anne Nickerson, early founders of Chatham, Massachusetts. In October 2025, *Part 5: Samuel* received the **Richard G. Tomlinson Award for Literary Excellence**, presented by the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. This award recognizes the best overall entry in the Society's annual literary awards competition.

The 600-page volume focuses on the descendants of Samuel Nickerson, an eighth-generation family member, and includes vital statistics for the ninth generation as well as allied families. Detailed biographical sketches, photographs, and extensive source citations make the book a valuable reference for both genealogists and historians.

Linda Blais served as a writer and co-editor on the award-winning volume. Her donation reflects the broader contributions of Fiske volunteers, whose genealogical expertise often extends beyond the library to support family associations, historical societies, and scholarly publishing.

Burke's Peerage

In seeking out sources for British genealogy, one convenient, easily accessible source has been Burke's Peerage. John Burke, an Anglo-Irish genealogist started the series in 1826. The alphabetical name format was easy to navigate, and later editions covered a wide range of categories. It was exceedingly useful in the 19th century--a social registry Blue Book for knowing who's who.

Many poo-poo it now as inaccurate or even fictitious in places, although recent editions have made corrections. The fictional aspects usually relate to early history rather than more recent generations. A reminder that any source needs to be cross checked for accuracy. And obviously, not everyone descends from "nobility." But the Burke series includes not only nobility, but volumes on landed gentry, colonial gentry, knights etc. Note that many titles were passed out by the Crown to people whose services proved useful, usually from noble families, but not always. It is exceedingly hard to get a handle on some families because every generation uses the same set of family names. Knowing where family lines proliferated can provide clues.

The "BurkesPeerage.com" modern [website](#) requires a subscription and is pricey, although interesting to peruse. Earlier editions are freely available and downloadable online. The "Burke's Peerage, Wikipedia" [article](#) provides a nice list of links.

My personal library includes: [The dates simply refer to the editions I was able to download; the same titles were reprinted at other times.]

1847 - A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain. Useful for likely connections of more middle class folk, merchants, soldiers, clergy, lawyers etc. possibly linked to noble families or just rich enough to buy an estate.

1895 - A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Colonial Gentry. Useful for linking far-flung families to families in Britain.

1914 - A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage. In addition to the standard main body of peers and barons, this edition gives considerable space to understanding "precedence" -- where one fits in the hierarchy of titles. I found it illuminating.

1977 - A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland, and Scotland.

~ Marge Jodoin

Surplus Books

We still have an oversupply of books and our main goal is to move them out! Prices are kept reasonable.

Email: surplus@fiskelibrary.com to make inquiries or purchases. Be sure to check your spam folder if you don't see a reply within a day or two.

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>

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Winter 2026 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 any class notes. **Check the home page frequently for announced schedule changes and updates to any dates listed as TBA.**

2026	Topic	Instructor
Wednesday January 7	Travel Your Tree: Walking in Your Ancestors' Footsteps	Lisa Vogeles
Wednesday January 14	How to Leave Your Genealogy	Lisa S. Gorell
Wednesday January 21	Organizing for Genealogy	Susan McKee
Wednesday January 28	AI for Genealogy Research Best Practices	Claire Smith
Wednesday February 4	Where Does This Go? Organizing Your Genealogy Gems	Sara Cochran
Wednesday February 11	Browsing & Clustering with MyHeritage DNA Tools	Beth Swartz
Wednesday February 18	TBA	
Wednesday February 25	From RootsTech 2025 to 2026; What to look for and how to enjoy next week's conference	Jenny Hansen
Wednesday March 4	TBA	
Wednesday March 11	A Genealogist's Guide to Lesser Known Research Tools	Claire Smith

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.

Our newsletter is published quarterly in September, January, 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.

Legacy Family Tree User Group

The Legacy Family Tree group is currently on hold. Siri expects to restart the meetings in March; watch our website for a confirming announcement.

Our thanks to Siri Nelson for her dedication in leading this group.

Thanks to our Donors

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation and Library has always been dependent upon donations, but this has been doubly true since the pandemic when the library was closed to regular use. Your ongoing patronage and support is most appreciated. Thank you!

~ The FGF Board



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to expand our hours of opening! Your interest and your reliable presence is all that is needed. When not helping researchers you are free to use the library yourself. Please call David Brazier to discuss hours and training. Call 206-687-5249.

RootsTech 2026

RootsTech 2026 is a 3-day global family history conference taking place March 5-7, 2026 in Salt Lake City. The theme is "Together"-- ten LDS members from around the world will emcee the event.

"RootsTech 2026 will be accessible online for free. Additionally, attendees have the option to pay to attend the in-person experience at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah."

"The conference will feature well-known keynote speakers, hundreds of classes taught by professional genealogists and family historians, the latest innovative technology and activities for people of all ages and interest levels."

Details of the event can be found online here:

<<https://www.thechurchnews.com/members/2025/12/17/rootstech-2026-theme-together-global-emcees-worldwide-family-history-genealogy/>>

Fiske Library Hours

Monday	By appointment. Call David 206 687-5249
Wednesday	The Library is open from Noon to 3 P.M.
Thursday	By appointment. Call David 206 687-5249
Friday	Reserved for research groups from outside the greater Seattle Area. Contact David to make reservations. 206 687-5249
Saturday	By appointment. Call Larry 206 720-4719

Fiske Genealogical Foundation Information

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

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION FEES

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

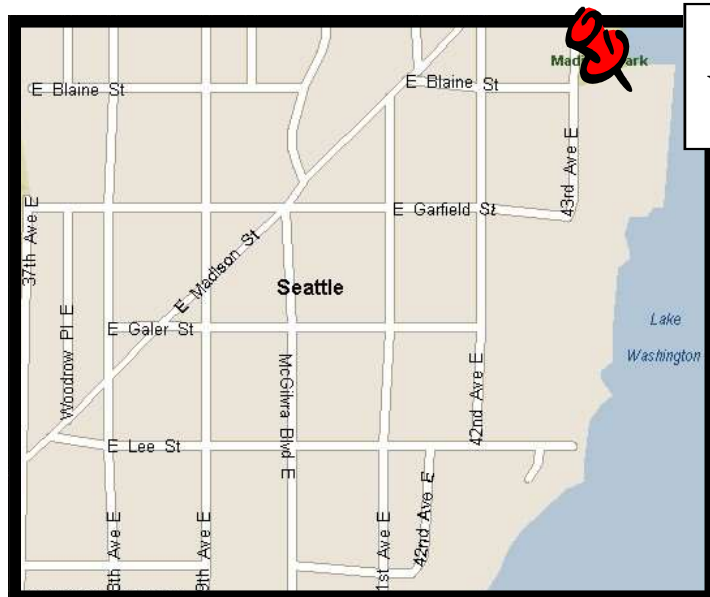
Daily Use Fee \$5.
 Annual Library Pass \$50.
 Annual Family Pass \$70.
 Wednesday Seminar Series
 (10 sessions) \$35.
 Annual Library Pass plus Full
 Year Seminar Series
 (30 sessions) \$85
 Newsletter—Mail Subscription
 \$6 for 4 Issues



Fiske Genealogical Foundation
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Return Service Requested

HOW TO FIND US!



**Fiske Library is located
on the lower level of the
Washington Pioneer Hall.**

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