

## 2016 FALL SEMINAR

### SOURCES & METHODS FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

17 September 2016 | J. Erik Jonsson Central Library

Register online: [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

	Qty.	By Sept. 5*	After Sept. 5
Member	_____	\$50/each	\$60/each
Non-Member	_____	\$60/each	\$70/each
Lunch	_____	\$12/each	\$12/each

Select Box Lunch Choice:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ham Sandwich
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Sandwich
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Sandwich
- \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Salad w/ Chicken Salad

**JOIN NOW!** \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 annual dues (individual)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$40 annual dues (household)

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form & check (payable to Dallas Genealogical Society):

DGS Fall Seminar  
P.O. Box 12446  
Dallas, Texas 75225-0446

\*For lower rate: Register online or by mail postmarked no later than September 5, 2016.

Refunds by September 5, 2016 incur a \$10 handling fee.

No refunds after September 5, 2016.

Walk-ins welcome

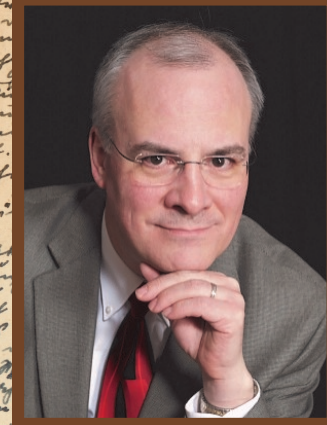
but printed syllabus and lunch not guaranteed.

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Organization  
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Dallas Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 12446  
Dallas, TX 75225-0446



## SOURCES & METHODS FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH



**CURT B. WITCHER**



**DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**FALL SEMINAR**

**17 SEPTEMBER 2016**



# Sources & Methods for Family History Research

J. Erik Jonsson Central Library  
1515 Young Street | Dallas, Texas 75201

**Saturday ~ 17 September 2016**

9:30 - 10:00 Registration

10:00 - 10:15 Opening

10:15 - 11:15 *Historical Research Methodology: Engaging the Process to Find all the Answers*

11:15 - 11:45 BREAK

11:45 - 12:45 *German Migration into the Midwest*

12:45 - 1:45 LUNCH

1:45 - 2:45 *Fingerprinting Our Families: Using Ancestral Origins as a Genealogical Research Key*

2:45 - 3:15 BREAK

3:15 - 4:15 *Native American/First Nations Research*

4:15 - 4:30 DOOR PRIZES & ADJOURN



## ***Historical Research Methodology: Engaging the Process to Find all the Answers***

Many genealogists miss opportunities to find consequential documents for advancing their research because they do not follow a standard research methodology, namely the “historical research methodology.” Special care is given in this lecture to emphasize the importance of some rather fundamental basics which, when used together, make for a powerful data-gathering methodology:

1. Working from present to past, from known to unknown;
2. Documenting everything that is recorded, always looking for particular facts or pieces of data to reveal or uncover yet more information;
3. Using the yardstick of “researching as broad as one researches deep,” i.e. using geographic contexts to open doors to migration and settlement groups, ethnic churches, cemeteries, and limited edition publications; and
4. Placing one’s genealogical research in the proper historical context to maximize one’s record-gathering potential.

## ***German Migration into the Midwest***

This presentation provides a basic strategy for uncovering information about why Germans migrated to the Midwest and the various routes they took to their destinations. Migration and settlement patterns are explored through published sources. Careful research into local history data and sources is emphasized as well as the use of unusual sources.

## ***Fingerprinting Our Families: Using Ancestral Origins as a Genealogical Research Key***

This lecture explores how the concept of “America, the Great Melting Pot” may really be a flawed concept, and that identifying the particular ethnic group of one’s ancestor or potential ancestor can pay some significant research dividends.

Topics covered in this lecture include how to build a historical context for one’s ancestor, studying population clusters, paying attention to patterns of all sorts (naming, migration, settlement, etc.), understanding the “push and pull” of migration (i.e. the reasons behind families or individuals migrating), and locating repositories for various ethnic groups.

## ***Native American/First Nations Research***

This lecture provides an overview for the person just getting started doing Native American genealogical research. Emphasis is placed on the researcher paying close attention to historical details, the major differences between Euro-American and Native American societies, and conducting his/her research within the proper historical and geographic contexts. Major records groups are defined with an extensive bibliography provided. Some consequential first steps in engaging in any type of Native American research are enumerated and discussed.



## **CURT B. WITCHER**

Curt Witcher is Senior Manager for Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN where he manages The Genealogy Center. He is a former president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society.

In addition to the more than 500 record and methodology articles he has penned for genealogical periodicals, Curt has participated in many family history conferences and seminars across the country, presenting ideas and strategies to help individuals find and tell their family stories.

He was honored in May of 2007 with the National Genealogical Society’s P. William Filby award for outstanding, life-time contributions to genealogical librarianship.