

Save these dates!



1776 and Me:
Finding Your Revolutionary
War Connection

with Craig Scott

JULY 25



The Pieces are
Falling into Place...

Fall seminar presenter
news coming soon!

FALL 2026

The Dallas Genealogical Society
is the Place for YOU!

Here are some of the things we offer:

- Monthly genealogy programs, free and open to all (September - May)
- Many Special Interest Groups, also free and open to all
- Our award-winning website with 10,000+ Dallas-area records
- Seminars presented by national speakers – at a member discount

All this and more awaits you!
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MASTERING the SEARCH:
German Genealogical Research Strategies

with

MICHAEL D. LACOPO, D.V.M.

MARCH 28





DGS is excited to welcome back one of our most popular speakers, Michael D. Lacopo. He will be devoting a whole day to one of his specialties—German genealogical research.

This seminar will help attendees navigate the landscape of German genealogy more competently. Learn about resources and techniques for tracing your German ancestors with confidence.



Welcome & Session 1 • 9:30 - 10:35 am (Central Daylight Time) ~ **Overcoming the Language Barrier in German Genealogy** Many American genealogists hesitate to dive into German records, worried that the language will be too difficult to navigate. This session will introduce you to powerful tools — from AI and crowdsourcing to German word lists, online dictionaries, and practical home study techniques — that make understanding German records accessible, even if you don't speak the language. Don't let unfamiliar words stand between you and incredible discoveries!

Session 2 • 11:00 am - 12:00 pm ~ German Genealogy on the Internet: Beyond the Basics The Internet age has brought genealogy to our fingertips over the last two decades, and subsequently we can find our German ancestors easier. This lecture will discuss some online sites that all German genealogists should be aware of. American sites will be covered, but a strong concentration on “Must Use” German sites will be discussed, as we are missing vital clues by not being truly “international” in our Internet research endeavors.

Join us in-person or virtually for this great seminar!

Session 3 • 1:00 - 2:00 pm ~ Finding and Using German Church Records Many of us have German-speaking European ancestors but are afraid to tackle the next step across the Atlantic. Finding the proper parish that holds the records of interest, as well as accessing those records, can seem daunting. It does not have to be. You will be shown how to find record repositories both online and off. By using examples of German church records, even beginners can learn how to overcome the fear of German script and decipher them.

Session 4 • 2:30 - 3:30 pm ~ Telling Their Story: Adding Character to Your German-American Genealogical Narrative Your German immigrant ancestors were more than just names and dates- they lived complex lives shaped by the world around them. This lecture explores how to go beyond birth, marriage, and death dates to uncover the social history that brings your family story to life. You will learn how to apply the 5W/1H questions (who, what, when, where, why, how) to your genealogy. Through following the case of one German family's immigration, you can learn to put common genealogical sources in a broader historical and cultural context that will help you understand your ancestors' story.

How Our Hybrid Seminar Works:

- Register online by clicking the Spring Seminar link at dallasgenealogy.org.
- Join us live on March 28th at the Dallas Central Library, 1515 Young Street. Free parking is available in the parking garage under the library. Enter from Wood Street.
- If you decide to participate remotely via Zoom, follow the Zoom registration instructions provided when you registered.
- Each session will be recorded. Recordings will be available to registrants for two weeks after the seminar.

Register Online ~ By March 8th: After March 8th:

DGS Members	\$60 each	\$80 each
Others	\$75 each	\$95 each
In-Person Box Lunch		\$17 each

(must order lunch online by March 23rd with registration)

Join DGS (\$35 annual dues per individual) and pay the Member Discount price for this seminar.

- The seminar registration fees shown are in U.S. dollars.

Register online at dallasgenealogy.org



Dr. Michael Lacopo was born and raised in northern Indiana surrounded by extended family always willing to tell tall tales. Intrigued by his maternal family's claim to be kinfolk of Abraham Lincoln, and his paternal family's stories of murder

and mayhem, he took to genealogical research in 1980 to substantiate these family stories.

Genealogical research as a hobby was at its infancy in the 1980s. Combing libraries, archives, cemeteries and courthouses as a teenager, Michael gained the skills needed to become a keen researcher. His first major research challenge was finding his adopted mother's birthparents in 1982. You can read about this engaging adventure (and the subsequent plot twists) at his blog: Roots4U.blogspot.com.

While honing his research skills as a budding genealogist, Michael completed his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1991. Michael treats his genealogical research as he would medicine – carefully, methodically and completely.

It was in 2013 that he retired from medicine to pursue genealogical research full-time as a profession. Michael's national lecturing began at the 2004 National Genealogical Society's conference, and has continued with local, state, national, and international speaking engagements. Michael also contributes articles to numerous periodicals, as well as helping many people in their quests to locate their relatives – both living and dead.

Michael's interests and strengths include Mennonite, German, and Swiss research, especially as it pertains to the 18th-century immigration to America. He makes frequent trips throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest states, chasing ancestors in primary repositories. He also devotes a considerable amount of time to European research, being proficient in reading German script.

Due to having ancestors from many geographic locales, and immigrants spanning the 17th to 20th century, Michael has a wide variety of proficiencies. He believes that genealogists should tell the tales of our ancestors, and is a vocal proponent for learning the social history that interweaves our ancestors into the fabric of the past.

In addition to his story-telling and educational blog, Michael can be found at www.Roots4U.com, and for more up-to-date lecture and research information at <https://www.facebook.com/Roots4U>.

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