



# DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

dallasgenealogy.org

Register Online or By Mail!



## 2016 FALL SEMINAR

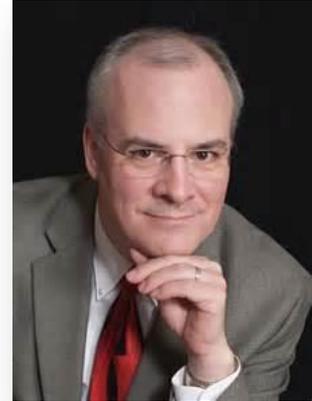
### Curt B. Witcher

#### Sources & Methods for Family History Research

Saturday, 17 September 2016

Registration: 9:30 AM | Seminar: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

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



PLEASE PRINT:

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

	By Sept. 5*	Quantity	After Sept. 5	Quantity
Member	\$50	_____	\$60	_____
Non-Member	\$60	_____	\$70	_____
Boxed Lunch**	\$12	_____	\$12	_____

**Indicate Choice:** \_\_\_ Ham Sandwich \_\_\_ Turkey Sandwich \_\_\_ Vegetarian Sandwich \_\_\_ Garden & Chicken Salad Duo

#### Join Now & Register at Member Rate!

One year Individual	\$35	_____	Life - under age 65	\$700	_____
One year Household	\$40	_____	Life - 65 or older	\$500	_____

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

\* Must be registered online or by mail-in form postmarked by September 5, 2016 to qualify for lower rate.

\*\* Lunch choice details available on Fall Seminar Event webpage at dallasgenealogy.org.

Mail registration form & check, payable to *Dallas Genealogical Society*, to:  
**DGS 2016 Fall Seminar, P.O. Box 12446, Dallas, Texas 75225-0446**

Refund Policy: Full refund, less \$10.00 handling fee, if requested by September 5, 2016; no refund after September 5, but syllabus provided.

NOTE: Walk-ins welcome on day of Seminar; however, no guaranteed availability of printed syllabus or lunch.

DGS | P. O. Box 12446, Dallas, Texas 75225-0446 | 1-866-968-2347 | info@dallasgenealogy.org

## TOPICS

### **Session 1: 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.

### **Session 2: 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.

### **Session 3: 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.

### **Session 4: 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 Witcher**

Curt Witcher is the Senior Manager for Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN where he manages The Genealogy Center, the institution’s Rare and Fine Book Collection, and the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection of Abraham Lincoln materials. Curt is the project lead on many of the library’s digitization initiatives—initiatives that include partnerships with the FamilySearch International, the Internet Archive, ProQuest, Ancestry, Fold3, and WeRelate—as well as growing a site of free, searchable data files at [GenealogyCenter.org](http://GenealogyCenter.org).

Curt is a member of the Genealogy Committee of the American Library Association, a former president of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, and the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society. In addition to the more than five hundred record and methodology articles he has penned, 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.