



Getting Stated with Your Family History

A Seminar in Four Sessions

Developed by the Dallas Genealogical Society

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Session 1. Learn the Basics

Learn how to take the information that you know about your family and use it as a basis for telling your family's story. Identify what additional details you need and where to find them. Start to search online for vital information that will complete your ancestral journey.

Session 2. Explore the Census

U.S. Federal and State censuses offer amazing details about your ancestors. Learn what censuses are available, where to find them online, and how to use them. If census records are not available, learn how to identify alternative sources of information, such as City Directories.

Session 3. Identify Key Records

Uncover ancestral clues through researching the localities where your ancestors lived. Identify and explore the range of land, court, family, surname, and military record types that will aid in your research.

Session 4. Search, Save and Preserve

Hone your online search skills with basic techniques to optimize your search results. Organize and save your records by creating a system that works for you. Learn some technology tips to preserve your family records.

PRESENTATIONS AND REFERENCES

Download presentations and references for all sessions from the Dallas Genealogical Society website:

Dallas Genealogical Society -> Resources -> New Genealogist

http://dallasgenealogy.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=224&Itemid=80



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GENERAL REFERENCES

Online Learning Centers

Ancestry.com - Learning Center

<http://www.ancestry.com/cs/HelpAndAdviceUS>

FamilySearch - Learning Center

<https://www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>

Online References & Resources

Cyndi's List

<http://www.cyndislist>

FamilySearch – Research Wiki

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page

RootsWeb

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/get_started/charts_forms.html

USGenWeb

<http://usgenweb.org/>

Online Information Sources

Ancestry.com

<http://www.ancestry.com/>

“Ancestry.com is the world’s largest online resource for family history, with more than 1.7 million paying subscribers around the world as of December 2011.”

Dallas Genealogical Society: Resources

<http://www.dallasgenealogy.org>

Records include mortality schedules and court records, as well as searchable databases for Dallas County cemeteries, marriages, and tax records.

FamilySearch

<http://www.familysearch.org>

A service provided to the public at no cost by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “Records span billions of names across hundreds of collections—including birth, marriage, death, probate, land, military, IGI extracted, and more.”

Library of Congress: Chronicling America



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<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

“Chronicling America is a Website providing access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages, and is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP).”

Mocavo

<http://www.mocavo.com/>

“Mocavo specifically searches genealogy Web sites. Mocavo filters out all of the irrelevant search results about living people and gives you one-stop access to information from genealogy libraries, state archives and family records.”

Rootsweb’s WorldConnect Project

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>

The WorldConnect Project is supported by ancestry.com. It provides a no-cost “set of tools, which allow users to upload, modify, link, and display their family trees as a means to share their genealogy with other researchers.”

University of North Texas: The Portal to Texas History

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

“The Portal is a gateway to Texas history materials . . . from an ancestor’s picture to a rare historical map. . . . [includes] collections from Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, genealogical societies, and private family collections.”

Libraries & Archives

Allen County Public Library: Genealogy Center

<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx>

Dallas Public Library: Genealogy Section

<http://dallaslibrary2.org/genealogy/index.php>

Houston Public Library: Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

<http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton-library>

Mid-Continent Public Library: Midwest Genealogy Center

<http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>

National Archives (NARA): Resources for Genealogists

<http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/>

The National Archives at Ft. Worth

<http://www.archives.gov/southwest/public/research.html#genealogy>

Texas State Library and Archives: Genealogy Resources

<https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/genfirst.html>



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Genealogical Societies

Texas State Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/index.htm>

Dallas Genealogical Society

<http://dallasgenealogy.org/>

Federation of Genealogical Societies

<http://www.fgs.org/>

National Genealogical Society: References for Researching

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/references_for_researching

General Reference Books

Eales, Anne Bruner, and Robert M. Kvasnicka. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States*. Third edition. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000.

Eichholz, Alice, editor. *Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources*. Third edition. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2004.

Web edition.

[http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources](http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Red_Book:_American_State,_County,_and_Town_Sources) : 2004.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. Third edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2009.

Meyerink, Kory L., editor. *Printed Sources: A Guide to Published Genealogical Records*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1998.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis, and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, editors. *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*. Third edition. Provo, UT: Ancestry, 2006.

Web edition.

[http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy](http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=The_Source:_A_Guidebook_to_American_Genealogy) : 2006.

Smolenyak, Megan. *Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History*. New York: Viking, 2010.



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ETHNIC RESEARCH

African American

Burroughs, Tony. *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*. New York: Fireside Book, 2001.

Byers, Paula K., editor. *African American Genealogical Sourcebook*. New York: Gale Research, 1995.

Finkelman, Paul, editor. *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Finkelman, Paul, editor. *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present: From the Age of Segregation to the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

German

Humphrey, John T. *Finding Your German Ancestors: A Practical Guide for Genealogists*. Washington, D.C.: Pennsylvania Genealogy Books, 2009.

Thode, Ernest. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992.

Hispanic

FamilySearch. Online lessons. *Learning Center Search Result Filtered by Spanish Language*.
<https://www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/results.html?fq=languages%3A%22Spanish%22>
|2012.

Ryskamp, George R. *Finding Your Hispanic Roots*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997.

Ryskamp, George R., and Peggy Ryskamp. *Finding Your Mexican Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*. Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2007.

Italian

Colletta, John Philip. *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans*. Second edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003.

Native American

Curry, Bob. *Miscellaneous Cherokee and Choctaw Records, 1800-1900*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2001.

Edgington, Billy Dubois, and Carol Anne Buswell, and Guion Miller. *Vital Information from the Guion Miller Rolls: Eastern Cherokee Court of Claims, 1906-1909*. 1998. CD-ROM reprint, *Vital Information from the Guion Miller Rolls: Eastern Cherokee Court of Claims, 1906-1909*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1999.

Gormley, Myra Vanderpool. *Cherokee Connections: An Introduction to Genealogical Sources Pertaining to Cherokee Ancestors*. Baltimore, Md: Genealogical Publishing Co, 2005.



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Jordan, Jerry Wright, compiler. *Cherokee by Blood: Records of Eastern Cherokee Ancestry in the US Court of Claims, 1906-1910, Volumes 1-8*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1997.

Roman, Laurie Beth. *Who's Looking for Whom in Native American Ancestry. Volumes 1 & 2*. Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2004.

Swedish

Clemensson, Per, and Kjell Andersson. *Your Swedish Roots: A Step by Step Handbook*. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2004.

Johansson, Carl Erik. *Cradled in Sweden*. Sandy, Utah: Everton Publishers, 2002.