



37th ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONROE COUNTY, MI
SATURDAY March 29, 2014
at the Monroe County Community College
A Day with Curt B. Witcher

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Registration and Welcome (coffee and donuts)**

9:00 am – 10:00 am **Using Military Records for Genealogical Research**

This particular lecture is an in-depth look at military records, from the earliest times of our country's history to the present day. Discussed are the five major types of military records; where one can find such documents; a look at typical data found in sample records; and a detailing of what one might call other "minor" military records. It is good either as a beginning or intermediate lecture as the basics are covered along with strategies for getting the most from the information given in military records.

10:00 am – 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 am – 11:30 am **Effective Use of the Allen County Public Library Genealogical Center**

Providing a detailed description of the holdings of The Genealogy Center, this lecture folds research methodology into an exploration of the resources of the nation's second largest genealogical research facility. Consideration is given not only to materials available for research on-site but also to how researchers can access data about the collection remotely.

11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Lunch (catered or visit a local restaurant)**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Mining the Mother Lode: Using Periodical Literature for Genealogical Research**

Extremely significant quantities of family and local history data are published in the newsletters, journals, quarterlies, and magazines of the world's historical and genealogical societies. Yet, so many genealogists leave periodical literature untouched when conducting their research and investigating secondary sources of data. This lecture identifies the major types of periodical literature, what indices are available and how they can be most effectively used, and where one can find specific publications. Special attention is given to the Periodical Source Index as the largest and most comprehensive subject index in the genealogical field.

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm **Break**

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm **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.

NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 15, 2014

VENDORS – GENEALOGY BY COMPUTER DEMONSTRATIONS ALL DAY – RAFFLE

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AUDREY M. WARRICK ADMINISTRATION & STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING
1555 SOUTH RAISINVILLE ROAD, MONROE, MI 48161

From the North: Take I-75 to Exit 15 (North Dixie Hwy.). Turn right (West) onto North Dixie Hwy. Turn right onto East Elm Avenue. This becomes North Custer. Follow this for approximately 6 miles. Turn left onto South Raisinville Road, MCCC will be on your left.

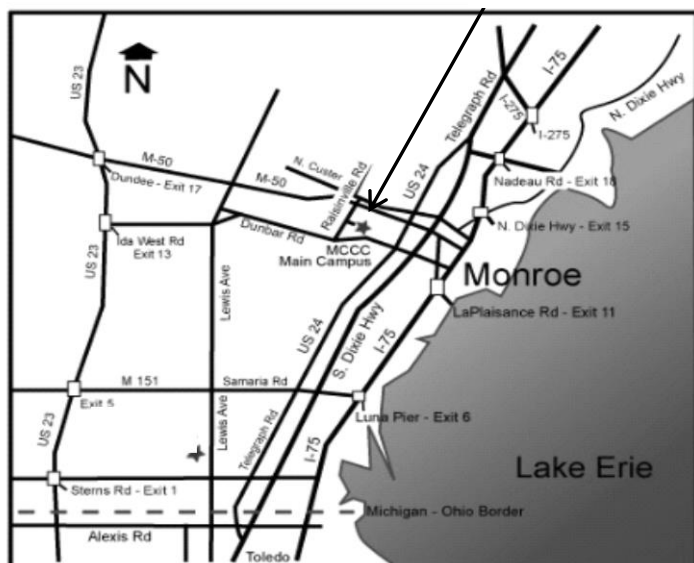
Or, take US 23 South to Exit 17, Dundee (M-50) turn left (East) onto M-50 to South Raisinville Road, turn right. MCCC is south on Raisinville Road on your left. Seminar is in Building A on map.

From the South: Take I-75 North to Exit 15 (North Dixie Hwy). Turn left onto North Dixie Hwy. Turn right onto East Elm Avenue. This becomes North Custer. Follow this for approximately 6 miles. Turn left onto South Raisinville Road, MCCC will be on your left. Seminar is in Building A on map.

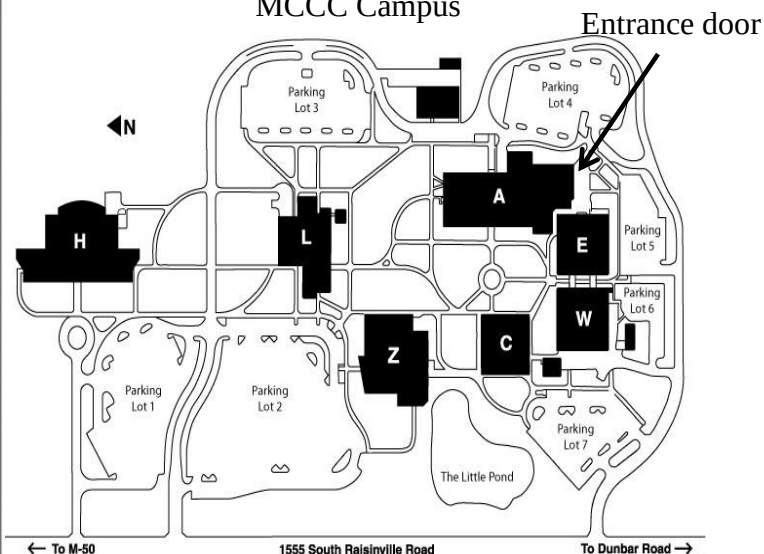
Or, take US 23 North to Exit 17, Dundee (M-50). Turn right (East) on M-50 to South Raisinville Road, turn right, MCCC on your left. Seminar is in Building A on map.

From the West: Take M-50 East to South Raisinville Road, turn right. MCCC will be on your left. Seminar is in Building A on map.

MCCC Campus



MCCC Campus



Curt B. Witcher is the Senior Manager for Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN where he manages The Genealogy Center, serves as general curator for the institution's Rare and Fine Book Collection, and is the Supervisor for the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection of Abraham Lincoln materials. Curt is the project lead on the library's digitization initiatives--initiatives that include partnerships with the FamilySearch International, the Internet Archive, ProQuest, Fold3, and WeRelate--as well as growing a site of free, searchable data files at GenealogyCenter.org. He has worked at Allen County Public Library for more than thirty-four years.

Curt is a member of the Genealogy Committee of the American Library Association, the convener of the Genealogy and Local History Discussion Group, a past chair of the association's History Section, and a participant in other genealogical and historical committees of that organization. He is a former president of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society. He is the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society and has memberships in a number of historical and genealogical organizations in the state and country.

Curt was distinguished in 1995 as a fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association (FUGA) and received the Federation of Genealogical Societies' highest honor, the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Humanitarian Award. In 1997, he was one of the Kellogg Foundation's "Expert in Residence" scholars. He is the 2002 ALA-RUSA History Section Genealogical Publishing Company Award winner and in 2003 was honored by the Indiana Historical Society as that year's Willard Heiss Memorial Lecturer. Curt was recognized in 2006 by being named the first fellow of the Indiana Genealogical Society. 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.

Mail this registration form (1 for each person attending) and registration fee (\$US) made out to GSMC to:
Nancy Mattox, 4913 Luann Avenue, Toledo, OH 43623-3833

If you have questions, please e-mail gsmcmi@gsmcmi.org.

Please print legibly:

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____
Address _____ E-Mail* _____
City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____ - _____

Registrations received by March 15th will be included in the Surname Index. Please PRINT no more than 4 surnames.

1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____ 4 _____

Because of changes at the college regarding food, we can no longer bring food into the college for our seminar. A caterer will provide a box lunch.

Registration fee is \$25, for an additional \$8 lunch will be provided for those registering by March 15.

All lunches will contain half a thick-stacked sandwich, potato chips, a cookie, a mint, and water. Coffee will be available. Soft drinks can be purchased from vending machines in the cafeteria.

Menu choices (please select one):

- ☐ Smoked turkey with cheese
- ☐ Hickory ham with cheese
- ☐ Signature chicken salad
- ☐ No lunch

If special dietary requirement, please note (ex. gluten or other food allergy) _____

**e-mail addresses are not shared; we only use them to contact you, if needed, regarding your registration.*