

Lectures and Presentations by J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA

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New lectures for 2012

Finding Freedmen Marriage Records

Locating and proving marriage connections during slavery and immediately after emancipation may be rewarding, but difficult. Learn about the records that were created, those that weren't, and how to find what you need.

Circuit Riders and the Early Methodist Church

Ride along with the Western Cavaliers as they spread the gospel throughout the wilderness. Learn about the early church records and how to use them in your research.

Records of the Moravians

With records beginning in 1753, the Moravian church records detail the lives of early members and neighbors along with detailed family histories. Learn where to find them and how to use in your family research.

Peeking Behind the Scenes of the Tennessee State Library & Archives:

Learn about the wonderful records that exist for genealogists researching Tennessee in the state's largest research facility. Discover tools to accomplish long-distance research and learn to develop a plan to solve your most difficult Tennessee problems.

But He Wasn't a Minister: Finding a Baptist Ancestor Using Court Records

Our Baptist ancestors were expected to be exemplary citizens. Court Minutes can identify where and when our ancestors met those goals or when they might have left town.

Finding Baptist Ancestors in Southern Manuscripts

By focusing on regional manuscripts we can discover the wonderful letters, diaries, memorials and documents that tell the story of families, religious frontier, and outrageous Baptist. Learn how and where to find these items to include in your research.

Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan

Learn a simple technique for breaking down difficult research problems into manageable segments. Learn to get more research done while remaining focused.

Whiskey, Brandy and Southern Migration

Understanding why our Ancestors were searching for limestone-filtered flowing springs and abundant fruit and grain will help tighten their travel routes and destinations. Learn basic distillation process as well.

Methodology/Records

M1. Making Those Early Census Records Talk to You

Stop avoiding those pre-1850 census records. Turn those 1's and 0's into clues and lively pictures of your family.

M2. Out on a Limb, Trapped by Bad Research

Feeling trapped with nowhere to go? Bad, weak or missing evidence all contribute to misleading research. Review your research findings, sharpen your techniques, evaluate your sources, and map a new course.

M3. Locating Civil War Ancestors

Discover the records of your Yankee or Rebel ancestor. Learn more about compiled military service records, pensions and more.

M4. Finding Uncle John by Talking to the Neighbors

Using census records, manuscripts, and land records, learn details about your ancestor's neighborhood and the people with whom they worked, prayed, fought and married.

M5. Don't Count Me Out: Finding Insolvent Estate Settlements

Keep listening even when your ancestors don't have enough property to pay their outstanding debt at death. Learn how estates are handled when insolvent; how to use in your research; and where to locate them.

M6. Is It Really Online? Finding and Using Original Sources at Home or Library

Take advantage of new online resources while developing your research skills. Learn about simple techniques that can improve your methodology and accomplishment.

M7. Beginning Land Platting

This hands-on session will help you learn how to plat a deed using the metes and bounds system. Identify a neighborhood and locate the plat on a topographic map.

M8. Over There and Back, WWI records that do survive

Find the valuable state and local records that document WWI service (including females.) Also look at some other Federal sources.

M9. Using that Brick Wall as a Foundation

Feel like you are at a dead end? By reviewing our research, and taking a fresh approach, we can often see new opportunities for finding our family. Use the very evidence that stops you in your tracks to spring over the wall.

M10. My Ancestor, the Farmer: Shaping a profile for you Rural Ancestor

Farming is a proud and honorable occupation. Develop a rich profile of your farming ancestor and community using available resources.

M11. Cemeteries as a Genealogical Resource

We often overlook obvious clues as we walk through a cemetery. Whether town or country, enjoy this look at ways to learn more from our ancestors through gravestones and cemeteries.

M12. My Taxes Were Due When? (Using Delinquent Tax Lists and Release Books)

If paying taxes are not your favorite pastime, then your ancestors may have avoided taxes as well. Learn to use their delay in paying as a tool to finding those pesky family members. Tax records can tell us much more than about property.

M13. Just Talkin' or Oral History & Genealogy

Talking with family members will help you gain additional information about the family. Learn how to conduct an effective interview, how to follow-up, and how to document the information.

M14. Using the Internet for Genealogy & Research

The World Wide Web, electronic mail, and message boards have created a greater interest in genealogy. Learn about the wonderful resources available and what pitfalls to avoid.

M15. Preparing for a Day in Court

Make each day of research in the Courthouse full and effective. Learn what you need to know, how to prepare, and how to get the most for your time once you arrive.

M16. Land Barons or Dirt Farmers: Finding Land Transactions

Following the land will often identify the Ancestor and family. Learn how to trace an individual through property records and how to trace a specific property.

M17. Road Crews and Jury Selection: Finding an Ancestor without a Census

Our ancestors were expected to be good citizens. Court Minutes can identify where and when our ancestors participated in the community. Learn about their appropriate conduct or their leaving town.

M18. Here Comes the Bride: Extracting More Information from a Marriage Record

Examining a variety of marriage records may improve our chances of learning even more about our ancestors. Learn about the different types of records and where you might find an unrecorded marriage.

M19. Fractured Relationships: Using Divorce Records in Our Research

Divorce was certainly not uncommon during the lives of our ancestors. Learn about where a divorce record may be found, and what information you may encounter.

M20. Here Comes the Bride, and There She Goes (a combination)

Learn to extract more information from marriage records and why to check divorce records for your families. Come learn about the good and bad in relationships, marriage customs and changes in the law that will help you further your research.

M21. Write that Source Down

Did you ever wonder where you found that date for Great Aunt Sally's birth? Learn the basics of documentation and discover why it can become your most important family research tool.

M22. Are You Ready for the 1930 Census? Planning and Preparation...

It won't be long until a set of records will be available for research. Learn what you need to know about the 1930 census and how they might help you in research.

M23. Smith vs. Jones, et al., A Closer Look at Court Records

When facts must be proven in court, many documents may be created. In court, relationships are proven and circumstances stated. Learn how to find these court records and how to use them effectively.

M24. Finding Your Landless Ancestors

Since land is the key in many ancestral discoveries, tracking those individuals who did not own land often becomes a daunting task. Learn to use Trust Deed Chattels and Tax Release Books to help locate those individuals without deeds and estates

M25. Masonic Lodges, Odd Fellows and Secret Societies

Fraternal organizations were a major part of our ancestor's life. Learn about the records available and how to determine if an ancestor was a member of an organization.
(Ky/Tenn)

M26. Early River Towns

A knowledge of the gathering places for early arrivals and the marketplaces for regional settlements may help you solve some migration issues within.

M27. Quality, Time and Completion: Developing a Research Plan (Part One)

This workshop will focus on the effort to balance time, quality and completion of a research project. The first segment will look at the process from research concept to logistics including the conflicting issues between the researcher and the client. This will include the movement from basic data collection, evaluation and analysis to the development of a direction and specific actions.

M28. Quality, Time and Completion: Developing a Research Plan (Part Two)

This section will take a closer look at the focus of research plans used by professionals. Practical examples will be shared and a step-by-step process will be included. Using real-life examples and patterns from busy professionals, learn how to make plans that work for you. Acceptable professional standards, resources and examples will be emphasized.

M29. Confederate Yankees in the Southland

A number of Union blue soldiers maintained close ties to the Confederacy. Many crossed the line to change uniforms. Come learn about your border ancestor and finding their uniform of choice or no uniform at all.

M30. Tic-Tac-Toe with Historic Legal Basics

Understand the terms and processes involved with ancestors. Learn how to research statute law and case law in terms of locality and time.

M31. Bible Thumper or Pious Pilgrim, Religious Ancestors on the Frontier

Get the real picture of religious fervor after the Great Awakening. Learn about resources that can help you sharpen your focus on a frontier ancestor. Case studies will paint a clearer picture.

M32. Pioneers of the Frontier: Using Online Newspapers To Find Early Settlers

See how free and commercial newspaper databases may help you find early family members. Learn the techniques and tips that will bring you research success.

M33. Quick, Complete and Accurate: Document Analysis for Researchers

Sharpen your document analysis through abstracts, transcriptions and understanding. Develop standard techniques and improve your daily research skills

M34. Constructing an Ancestor : Mortgages, Trust Deeds and Personal Agreements:

Learn how these financial instruments reveal circumstances about your ancestor and how they may lead you to new clues and deeper understanding.

M35. Dower, Dowry, and Detinue: Women and their Men's Property

Understanding how the legal system looked at our female ancestor's is essential to following their records. Learn the terminology, the record types and strategies for finding the answers.

M36. Help Me Please: Government Claims and Unusual Pension Requests

A request for recognition or payment for services rendered typically related to damages created by war or government intervention. Learn to find these claims and pension requests for your ancestors.

M37. Trails of Daniel Boone and other Western Travelers

Learn about the historic trails and trailblazers that lead early settlers to and from North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and the West. Get specific clues to help you solve difficult research questions.

M38. Cold Mountain: A Case Study of a Tarheel Soldier in the Civil War

Discover the real records of William P. Inman, the subject of the controversial book and movie, who lived and died in North Carolina

Southern States/Research

S1. Finding Your Kentucky Ancestors

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has some of the richest local, county and state public records of any state in the Union. Learn about the record types, where to find them and how to use them in your research. Case studies will be included for discussion.

S2. Tennessee, the Road to the West

Learn about the wonderful records that exist for genealogists researching Tennessee. Record types and examples will be discussed and presented. Case studies will be included for further discussion.

S3. Researching on the Ky-Tenn Border

Learn to ignore that boundary just like our ancestors did. Use these techniques to find those ancestors who jumped the border regularly.

S4. From County to Commonwealth

Learn about the records that transcend the development of Kentucky county, Virginia to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1792. Learn about the earliest counties and how to find the right records.

S5. Kentucky's Land Grant System

Understand the basic land records of Kentucky; from military grants to land offices.

S6. Finding the Hidden Manuscripts of Kentucky

Discover the wonderful letters, diaries, family histories and documents that tell the story of Kentucky's family. Learn how and where to find these items to further your research.

- S7. Six-shooters and the Big House**
Kentucky hid its share of famous criminals. Learn about the crime sprees and the time spent in the Kentucky State Penitentiary.
- S8. Kentucky and the Civil War**
Learn about the pivotal role of Kentucky between the battlefields of Virginia and Tennessee. Discover the wonderful records created about the soldiers and their families.
- S9. Balancing on North Carolina**
Understanding the geographical and migration patterns can improve your success with N.C. research. Learn about locating records, repositories and the resources you need to find a tarheel ancestor. (1 or 2 hours)
- S10. Tennessee Dower Laws and Other Estate remedies**
A thorough discussion of the rights of a widow regarding her husband's estate. Case studies will be shared.
- S11. Early Kentucky Settlement Patterns**
- S12. Early Tennessee Settlement Patterns**
- S13. Follow A Case Through Court –[This lecture available for NC, KY, TN, GA, AL, AR]**
Learn to arrange, recognize, and locate court records of our North Carolina ancestors, while identifying the [see states above] court system.
- S14. North Carolina: Land, Legends and Legacy (Part I)**
From insecure Colony to frontier matriarch, let's simplify the unique geologic/geographic secrets and migration patterns of North Carolina that will led to new discoveries and records.
- S15. North Carolina: Land, Legends and Legacy (Part II)**
Continue this North Carolina discovery session with a focus on exceptional records and sticky feet.
- S16. Focusing on Pathways of the Kentucky and Tennessee Frontier**
Learn more about the historic trails that lead early settlers to and from Kentucky and Tennessee. Get specific clues that might help you solve difficult research questions.
- S17. The Big Three: Tennessee's Geographic Regions**
Understand what make the three regions of Tennessee different, how they developed, and what they have in common. Learn how knowing your ancestor can pinpoint their location.
- S18. Using State Legislative Petitions to Solve Problems**
Requests from citizens can be used to solve difficult location problems or work around burned counties. Learn about the legislative petitions, available finding aids, and strategies to put them in your toolkit.
- S19. Remembering the War: Civil War Veterans and Friends**
Discover the records of your Civil War ancestor through their fraternal organizations, records, pension efforts and more.
- S20. Before Tennessee: the Records before Statehood**
Learn about the records that exist for genealogists researching pre-statehood Tennessee. Record types, finding aids, locations, and examples will be discussed and presented.
- S21. Finding the Hidden Manuscripts of Kentucky & Tennessee**
Discover the wonderful letters, diaries, family histories and documents that tell the story of Kentucky's family and Tennessee's pioneers. Learn how and where to find these items to further your research.

Migration

- T1. Finding My Way Home Again ... or A Closer Look at Migration Trails**
Early settlers of Kentucky and Tennessee followed pathways that continue to be traveled today. This lecture focuses on the major trails that led our ancestors to this home.
- T2. Over the Mountain, Across the Plains... Using Electronic Records to Trace Our Ancestors**
Your ancestors moved westward, now follow them as they move back east. Knowing where to look for valuable records will reward you with insights and research plans.
- T3. Cheap Land on the Prairie (or That's what the Railroad Man Said...)**
What stories and marketing efforts lured our ancestors to the midwest and beyond. Learn what really attracted these pioneers to new lands.

T4. Wonder What's Over the Mountain

Our ancestors looked for new and better lands to call home. They became pioneers on the Kentucky and Tennessee frontier. Before moving your research back across those mountains to the East, understand what you need to know.

T5. Finding Tennessee Land in Kentucky

The border between Kentucky and Tennessee created some unusual situations. Learn more about the Walker's Line controversy, and where to find the land grants that may lead to your ancestors.

T6. Focusing on Pathways 'cross the Ohio River

Learn about the historic trails that led early settlers to and from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and the West. Get specific clues that might help you solve difficult research questions.

African American

E1. Finding Black Roots in a White World

Learn how to find African-American family members in the pre-1870 U.S. Utilize the tools and techniques that will help you identify and find resources to lead you to a family.

E2. A Boarding House in Detroit... One African-American family's story of migration

African-Americans throughout the South moved to Midwestern cities in search of opportunities and work. Other family members and friends joined the first as stories were shared.

E3. Beginning a Search for an African-American Family

Researchers of African-American families often feel there will be only limited records for their search. Learn about the basics of family history research, and numerous record groups that will help you document the family history.

E4. Looking for Papa, Finding a People

Follow a research study from photograph to the discovery of a people. Learn proper research techniques from this African-American case study for any research project.

E5. Finding Freedmen Marriage Records

Locating and proving marriage connections during slavery and immediately after emancipation may be rewarding, but difficult. Learn about the records that were created, those that weren't, and how to find what you need.

E6. Following Slaves Using Estate and Settlement Records

Property transfers (including slaves) at the time of death provide solid evidence of individuals and family groups. Learn to find these records and understand their practical use.

E7. Walking on Promised Land

Learn what basic techniques are available to identify where cabins were located. Also discover when property was divided or perhaps given to former slaves.

Banquet or Luncheon Presentations (handout not provided)

A. Pitfalls, Pratsfalls and Loud-mouthed Children

A humorous look at genealogical groups and when we need those loud-mouthed children around. (updated for 2011)

B. People, Places and River Rocks

Today's researchers are learning that our ancestors were more than names and dates. Learn about how a river rock represents this style of research.

C. Coffins, Urns and Zip-lock Bags

Burial customs and cemetery stories form the basis of this look at our culture.

D. Perspective: Using our Point of View

Is history just a look at today - tomorrow? This presentation takes a look at the variety of views available to each of us.

E. Helping with Genealogy: Learning Your Limitations

Defining our role as a helper is difficult. This presentation discusses how we can provide assistance to others without exceeding our boundaries.

- F. Do They All Look Like Me?**
A laughable look at the traits passed down from our families.
- G. Broken Bones and Genealogical Societies**
A discussion of how to keep our societies active and healthy.
- H. Don't Cross the Bridge Without a Life Preserver**
A hilarious look at a trip down the road with a truck load full of sheep – inspirational and thought provoking.
- I. Pistol-Packing Grandma**
Lessons learned from a wise Grandmother and the true stories told by her son.
- J. Lessons Learned While Passing Through Nutbush, Tennessee**
Sharing the stories of filming African-American Lives 2 and the people I encountered.
- K. Using Archival Records: The Power of Collective Thinking**
Have you ever wondered what would happen if you awakened to learn you weren't who you thought you were– Where would you turn?
- L. When I Should Have Listened and Kept My Mouth Shut!**
A bone-tickling reminder of when one should take advantage of their two ears, and how to keep yourself out of trouble.
- M. Was That Really Me on TV? or just my Hand?**
Discover what was learned when an appearance on a television show turned out in an unexpected way.

Workshop and Extended Topics (90 minutes - 2 hours)

- R. Following a Case Through Court Workshop**
Learn the basic of the legal system. Understand the process of following a case through court including dockets, orders, depositions, etc. Find the key to solving a problem using these records.
- S. Developing a Research Plan Workshop**
Using real-life examples and patterns from busy professionals, learn how to make research plans that work for you. Acceptable standards, resources and examples will be emphasized.
- T. Beginning Land Platting Workshop**
This hands-on session will help you learn how to plat a deed using the metes and bounds system. Identify a neighborhood and locate the plat on a topographic map. (Materials Charge, \$7 per individual for protractor and ruler)
- U. Preparing for a Day in Court Workshop**
Make each day of research in the courthouse full and effective. Learn what you need to know, how to prepare, and how to get the most out of your time once you arrive. Real-life examples and active discussion will help you sharpen your techniques and understand how to map your courthouse plan.
- V. Diamonds, Rubies and Lumps of Coal**
Understand the use of evidence, artifacts, and tales in the development of a strong genealogical argument and family narrative.
- W. Research Reports: Patterns, Persistence and Progress – (Workshop)**
Research reports aren't only for professionals, but also a research tool for family genealogists. Develop report-writing skills that identify and convey the story revealed in the records you are discovering. Building on the basics with a strong pattern and becoming persistent in your approach will lead to progress and success
- X. Basic Genealogical Research in the South**
Learn the steps you should take when researching your Southern Ancestors. From developing a profile to answering questions, follow a professional through the process and improve your skills.

Workshops are available on state records for Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. Presentations are prepared for the specifics of your event.