

2016 Seminar General Admission Classes with Bios

Rev 5-27-16

9:00 AM **"Exploring the Fundamentals of Kentucky Land Patents & Navigating the Land Office Website"** presented by **Kandie Adkinson**

Fellowship Hall
Class Level: ALL

The different types of warrants that authorized land patents in Kentucky will be discussed as well as the significance of researching early tax lists. We will also discuss the various databases & scanned images on the Secretary of State's Land Office Website.

Kandie Adkinson is an Administrative Supervisor for the Secretary of State's Land Office. She has over 37 years of experience with land patent records—six years with the Kentucky Historical Society Preservation Lab and thirty-one years with the Land Office.

She has conducted seminars on the patenting process throughout Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio and Indiana. She is a member of the Jane McAfee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the First Families of Kentucky.

9:00 AM **"Forward to the Past: Techniques for Finding the Living to Discover Unknown Ancestors"** presented by **Deborah Lord Campisano**

Agape Room
Class Level: ALL

Traditional genealogical research demands we work from the known to the unknown – the present to the past. When this method reaches the proverbial brick wall, descendant research – also known as reverse genealogy – often aids in successfully unraveling family history mysteries. Whether you need to find that distant cousin who holds the family bible or candidates for DNA testing, learning techniques for finding the living can be a valuable skill in your genealogy tool box.

Deborah Lord Campisano, (BA History), has over 30 years of genealogical research experience -- 25 as a professional. She completed genealogical course work at a number of institutes including IGHR, SLIG, and GRIP, and is a frequent lecturer on methodology at local, state and regional conferences. Currently, Deborah is hot on the trail, using DNA evidence and traditional research, to identify her mysterious 2x Irish great grandmother.

10:45 AM **"Researching your Irish-American Ancestors"**

Presented by **T. Joseph Hardesty, MLS, PLCGS**

Fellowship Hall

Class Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Reaching back 'across the pond' is a goal for many family history researchers. Those who wish to research their Irish American ancestors have access to a wealth of valuable resources – many of which are online. This seminar will discuss the fundamental tips and valuable resources that all researchers should be aware of in researching ones Irish American Ancestors.

Born and raised in Louisville, Joe Hardesty began researching his family history in the mid 1980's – *long before the Internet!* With the help of patient and kind librarians however, he has been successful in tracing numerous family lines back to their European origins. In 1997 he was promoted to work in the Kentucky History and Genealogy section of the Louisville Free Public Library. In 2003, the library recognized Joe as an asset to the library and its users and made it possible for Joe to pursue a Masters Degree in Library Science – which he completed in 2006. Since 2008, Joe has been the librarian of the Kentucky History and Genealogy section for our Library – the largest collection housed in a public library in Kentucky! Most recently (Feb. 2012) he earned a certificate in Genealogical Librarianship from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies and is currently the first in Kentucky with this credential (hopefully, he won't be the last). He has attended numerous genealogy workshops over the years and has presented at several state and regional conferences. In short, the man teaches a lot!!

10:45 AM **"Finding One's Way: Uncharted Research"**

presented by **Glen Conner**

Agape Room

Class Level: Intermediate

Glen Conner was not daunted by the thought of research for his book about the Frontiersmen in the War of 1812. It seemed that it would be simple enough. Define a study area, describe the geographical setting, collect information about the state militia units that were involved, detail the military actions involving those units, and identify the frontiersmen who were the soldiers. The shock was that simplicity turned out to be totally absent.

At every turn, the path of discovery had obstacles that were daunting. Alternate paths were necessary to determine the boundaries of counties and states before,

during, and after the war. He had to create lists of soldiers by county. He had to overcome the absence of military unit histories, the lack of soldier records, and the lack of maps. He found the need to know about the migration of soldiers before and after the war, the continual changes in federal laws concerning militia service, or the evolving bounty land awards. The exploration path to knowledge was uncharted, and there were no answers in the back of the book. Virtually no research progresses in a straight line, but seems to meander. However, as Robert Frost wrote, "way leads on to way."

He will describe the way that led him on. The obstacles he encountered, and the circumvention of them, have direct genealogical applications to most researchers. He will present those obstacles, and the avoidance paths around them, to encourage genealogical research on War of 1812 ancestors. Ancestors who were between 18 and 45 during the early 1800s were almost assuredly militiamen during that war. This presentation will prepare for their discovery.

Glen Conner was an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University when he retired after twenty-four years of teaching meteorology and geography. He was also the State Climatologist for Kentucky from 1978 to 2000. Previously, he had a twenty-three year career in the Air Force, including a Vietnam tour, and retired as a Colonel.

His book, *Til Freedom Came*, is a detailed account of slaves in a border county of the border slave state of Kentucky. See Vendor Area information.

1:15 PM **"Jefferson County Cemeteries"**
presented by **Steve Wiser and Jack Koppel**

Fellowship Hall
Class Level: ALL

Cemeteries are important research locations for genealogists, and they can be very challenging to find out 'who is buried where'. To learn more about cemetery history and research, this presentation will discuss several dozen of the over 300 known burial grounds within Jefferson County. Steve Wiser, local architect and historian, and Jack Koppel, cemetery researcher, will provide fascinating background information as well as tips for cemetery research.

Jack Koppel is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. Jack worked for Louisville Metro Government for 33 years where he was the Communications Coordinator for the Emergency Management Agency and managed the Louisville 9-1-1 Call Center and Local Government Radio. He became interested in cemeteries in the 1980's when he lived in the historical Abraham Hite house in Fern Creek that had a

cemetery behind the house. He has been volunteering his time working with Metro Government to locate cemeteries in Jefferson County and have the cemeteries marked on maps so that the cemeteries will be persevered.

Steve Wiser is a lifelong Louisville resident. He attended St. Xavier High School and received his architectural training at the University of Cincinnati. Steve has been involved in community improvement efforts in Louisville since the late 1970's. He is president of the Louisville Historical League. Steve has authored many Louisville Architectural and Historical books and articles, and speaks at numerous regional organizations. Steve Wiser is an Associate and Director of Healthcare Design for JRA Architects. Steve can be reached by email at WiserAIA@Hotmail.com or via his website at <http://www.wiserdesigns.com/>

1:15 PM **"You Found Your Deed - Now Can You Locate Your Property?"**
presented by **Susan and Bill Snyder**

Agape Room
Class Level: Beginning

Susan and Bill Snyder will introduce the means to plat the land described in your ancestor's deed. You will learn basic terms and tools for platting. By using a case study, they will take you through the process of creating a diagram of the land. You will then be shown how to locate it on a current day map.

Susan Olson Snyder was introduced to genealogy when she joined a family research class, sponsored by Welcome Wagon. She had moved to Virginia with her husband and son and was looking for a way to meet people in a new city. She has been researching her and her husband's families for almost forty years, especially in Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, Virginia, Germany and Norway. She is a native of Louisville, KY, attended Ursuline College and has degrees in Mathematics and Art. After retiring from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2005, she has become active in the Louisville Genealogical Society, serving as quarterly editor, vice-president and president.

William "Bill" Snyder has been focusing on genealogy for almost forty years. His concentrations have been mainly in Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. He has also carried out research in German and Norwegian family records. While preparing and taking many research trips, he has come up with numerous ideas concerning preparation and time usage. These could conserve time both before, as well as during a research trip - especially in a foreign country. He holds a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a master's degree in Engineering Management from the University of Louisville. He has served both as treasurer and newsletter editor in the Louisville Genealogical Society.

3:00 PM **"Digital Periodical Research - PERSI"**
presented by **Mel Arnold**

Fellowship Hall
Class Level: All

The Allen County Public Library in Indiana (ACPL) has gathered one of the largest collections of genealogical materials in the world. It is generally acknowledged to be second only to the Salt Lake library. In 1986, the staff of the ACPL Genealogical Center decided to do something about the limited availability of copies of genealogical articles published in periodicals for family historians. The staff identified publications that regularly contained applicable material, created an index for relevant articles and determined they would make the list available to the researchers of family history. In addition to providing the list, they also decided to obtain current and past issues of the periodicals selected and to develop a methodology for ordering copies of desired essays. The index has been produced with the capability of researching in four categories; **people, locations, genealogical methodologies** and a **bibliography** of periodicals included. We will review the development of the collection, describe the process by which one finds articles of interest and discuss how to obtain any helpful articles you may have selected.

Mel Arnold is a native of Alabama who graduated from Samford University (Birmingham) and then attended seminary in Louisville. He obtained graduate degrees from Indiana University and served on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin followed by an Associate Professor position at the University of Minnesota. Mel returned to Louisville in 1983 to be director of education for Humana, supervising four training teams. The specific areas assigned to the separate teams were hospitals, immediate care centers (MedFirst), computer technology and a start-up insurance business. After Humana changed its business plan to focus solely on the insurance industry, Mel became the Director of Education and Training for Louisville Gas and Electric which grew from a county-focused utility company to number 364 on the Forbes Top 500 Business List before being purchased by an European firm. After retiring in 2000, he has focused on researching his family's history and developed a dedicated interest in writing on topics dealing with genealogy and Kentucky history.

3:00 PM **"Getting Acquainted with AncestryDNA"**
presented by **Debra Renard**

Agape Room
Class Level: Beginning

Learn what AncestryDNA testing results include and what they mean. Get familiar with the tools the site provides, both old and new.

Debra Smith Renard is a full-time genealogical researcher and lecturer, and the founder of Eureka! Genealogy. She specializes in genetic genealogy, being a co-founder and co-leader of the Louisville Genetic Genealogy Special Interest Group. She is a current board member of the Kentucky Genealogical Society and the Louisville Genealogical Society, the Treasurer of the Kentucky Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and a member of the John Marshall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and First Families of Ohio. Debra speaks at the local, regional and national levels and is especially passionate about using DNA to help those with unknown birth family find their roots.

Vendor Area

Til Freedom Came by Glen Conner

Til Freedom Came, is a detailed account of slaves in a border county of the border slave state of Kentucky. This book is a history of fifty years of slavery in Allen County that uses original sources to identify slaves and their contributions to the development of the county. It also identifies over 1200 Allen County slaves with both first and surnames and over 200 others with only first names recorded. The book won a 2011 Kentucky History Publication Award from the Kentucky Historical Society.

Kentucky men of military age responded to the call in the War of 1812 resulting in a total of over 25,000 Kentucky troops engaged in the fight. That large number assured that 64% of the soldiers who were killed in combat were Kentuckians. Many of them left their homes in what was still the frontier in central and western Kentucky to join in that fray. Glen detailed their contributions in his new book *Frontiersmen in the War of 1812*. They fought battles in far away places, Canada and New Orleans among others, before returning to their cabins in the deep woods of the frontier.

His lecture, **"Finding One's Way: Uncharted Research"** is listed at 10:45 AM in the General Admission Classes.