

Introducing...

Melissa Barker

a.k.a

The Archive Lady

Melissa Barker is a Certified Archives Manager and Public Historian currently working at the Houston County, Tennessee Archives. She is affectionally known as *The Archive Lady* to the genealogy community. She lectures, teaches and writes about the genealogy research process, researching in archives and records preservation. She conducts virtual presentations across the United States and other countries for any historical or genealogical group. She writes a popular blog entitled [A Genealogist in the Archives](#) and is a well-known published book reviewer. She writes a bi-weekly advice column entitled [The Archive Lady](#) published at *Genealogy Bargains*. She writes history pieces for her local newspaper, *The Houston County Herald*, called *From the Archives*. She has been a Professional Genealogist for the past 16 years with expertise in Tennessee records and she is currently taking research clients. She has been researching her own family history for the past 30 years.



Do You Need A Speaker for Your Societies 2021 Schedule?

Choose from the following presentations to bring Melissa Barker to your next meeting, conference or seminar!

County Warrants and the Stories They Tell NEW!

County warrants or checks were used to pay the counties expenses, bills and receipts to operate. These warrants are a great place to find your ancestor who was a pauper, worked for the highway department or served on a jury. Learn what a great asset county warrants can be to your genealogy research.

Moonshine and Stills: Finding Archived Records for Your Moonshiner Ancestors NEW!

Have you been told that our ancestors made moonshine? Have you ever wondered if there were records to help you verify those stories? Learn from an archivist who has found moonshine records in the archives about finding records for our moonshine ancestors.

Genealogy Has Gone to the Dogs: Researching and Documenting Our Ancestor's Pets NEW!

If you are like me and you want to know everything there is to know about your ancestor, why not research and document your ancestor's pets. Whether your ancestors were dog people, cat people or horse people, many of them had pets of all kinds they doted on and thought of as part of the family. Learn about records in archives and family resources that could help you tell the story of your ancestor's animal family members.

Diaries, Journals and Calendars: Preserving and Document Your Ancestor's Day-to-Day Life NEW!

Many of our ancestors recorded their day-to-day lives in diaries, journals, and calendars. Learn how to extract all the wonderful genealogical and historical information contained these sources and how to physically preserve them for the next generation.

Preserving Your Ancestor's Textiles and Handmade Treasures NEW!

Learn from an archivist the best practices to preserving your ancestor's textiles and handmade items. Everything from Grandma's quilt, that old Christening gown, your

Dad's letterman jacket and military uniforms. These textiles and handmade items need special care and consideration when it comes to preservation and storage.

10 Things a Genealogist Should Do Before Leaving a Library or Archives* **NEW!*

Have you ever gotten home from a genealogy research trip and said to yourself "I forgot to do that!" Learn the 10 things genealogist should do before they leave a library and archives to make their research trip a success!

Digging into Finding Aids: The Road Map to Any Manuscript Collection* **NEW!*

Genealogists use all kinds of tools to help them with their genealogy research. One of the best tools to understand and use when working with Manuscript Collections is the Finding Aid. Archivists develop Finding Aids to help genealogists navigate through Manuscript Collections to find their ancestors. This presentation will help genealogists read, follow and use a Finding Aid to find your ancestors in the records.

Genealogy Surprises, Discoveries and Outright Lies: Sorting Out the Facts* **NEW!*

Most genealogists have made discoveries, found surprises and documented some family information that was outright lies. Whether we are doing the happy dance or shocked by what we have found, it is important that we document this information for future generations. Good or bad, it all tells the story of our ancestors. Learn from a seasoned genealogist and archivist the best way to handle the genealogy surprises, discoveries and outright lies that come our way.

Researching Your Ancestors on Vacation!* **NEW!*

Genealogists research all aspects of their ancestor's lives. Researching our ancestor's vacations can be a lot of fun and help us to tell more of their life story. Whether your ancestor made an annual trek to the same destination, chose different vacation spots each year or just attended the family reunion, researching and documenting these times in their lives might help you understand them better.

That's in the Archives! Digging Deeper In the Archived Records

Genealogists use archives everyday to locate records about their ancestors. Are there records that you are not accessing because you don't know they exist? Not all records are online, indexed or microfilmed. Digging deeper in the local and state archives to find unique and relatively unknown records just might be the next step in your genealogy research.

The Home Archivist: Preserving Family Records Like A Pro!

Learn from a professional archivist how to preserve, protect and archive family records, photographs and artifacts. Best practices for organization, purchasing archival materials and practical records preservation that any home archivist can achieve! Learn how to process your collection of genealogical records from start to finish. Learn the steps archivists use to process small and large records collections at the archives and how you can use these steps to get a handle on your family records collections!

Disaster Planning for the Genealogist: Safeguarding Your Genealogical Records

Natural disasters and manmade disasters happen all the time. Are your genealogical records stored and archived in such a way that they will survive through a disaster? Learn from an archivist how to come up with your own disaster plan and safeguard your genealogical records from destruction.

Family Gatherings: Dragging Genealogy Information Out of Your Family

Family gatherings, we all have them. Whether they are annual events like family reunions or one time occasions like birthday parties, Father's Day, weddings or funerals, this is a time when our family members come together. This presentation will give you tips and tricks to get your family members talking about family history, even if they don't want to!

It's Not All Online: Researching in Archives

"Statistics say that there is less than 10% of all the world's genealogical records are online". This statement has been said by many genealogy professionals and archivists, including myself. The truth be told, that percentage is probably more like 3%-5%. As genealogists, we are living in a time when there are huge amounts of genealogy records being put online on a daily basis. We can do research in the comfort of our own homes with our pajamas and fuzzy slippers until 3 o'clock in the morning if we want to. Unfortunately, we have been lulled into thinking that "everything is online". When in reality, the majority of all genealogy records are sitting in repositories waiting to be discovered by the genealogist. This presentation will show why you need to contact or visit an archive and seek out those records that are not online.

Loose Records in an Archive: What Are They?

Genealogists use minute books, ledger books and other bound records that are located at archives, libraries and genealogical societies. There is also another type of records available called Loose Records that the genealogist should be seeking. Learn what loose records are, what records groups they can be found in and how they can benefit your research.

Metal Paper Clips, Rubber Bands and Tape, OH MY!

Learn from an archivist how to handle records, photographs and ephemera that have metal paper clips, rubber bands, tape and other fasteners attached to them. Get archival tips and methods on how to safely remove these destructive items from your records.

Museums Have Records Too! Locating Your Ancestors Behind Closed Doors

Genealogists are always looking for places where records are located. More and more these records are being found in places that are not your typical archives, library or genealogical society. One of these places is a museum. Many museums have back rooms filled with genealogical and historical records just waiting for the genealogist to discover them!

Preserving Old Family Letters: Tips from an Archivist

Old Family Letters. If you are fortunate enough to have some, they are a true family treasure. Writing letters is also a thing of the past, something that is not done anymore, all the more reason why we should collect, save and most importantly preserve the letters that we do have in our family records collections. In this presentation I will talk about the ways you can preserve your family letters so that they are protected for generations to come.

Researching in Libraries and Archives: The Do's and Don'ts

Those brick and mortar buildings that we call libraries, archives, courthouses, genealogical societies, historical society and museums are all around us. They hold the records that we are searching for as genealogists. Do you know how to use these repositories for the utmost benefit to your research? This presentation will show the genealogist some constructive Do's and Don'ts to help make the most of a visit to any library and archive.

Scrap Paper and Orphan Documents in Archives

Many of our archives have scrap paper and orphan documents that are discovered on a daily basis that doesn't belong to any particular records collection. In this presentation you will find out what archives do with these records and how you as a genealogist can discover these pieces of scrap paper and orphan documents in archives to help with your own family research.

Scrapbooks: A Genealogist's Gold Mine

Scrapbooks are one of my favorite record sources that I love to access and do research in and also to process as an archivist. Scrapbooks are like time capsules, they contain just about anything and until you "open them up", you don't know what is in them. This presentation is going to talk about the different kinds of scrapbooks and how to access them.

Vertical Files: What Are They and How to Use Them?

Vertical Files, sometimes called Subject Files, are a collection of miscellaneous documents and ephemera that are put in file folders which are then stored in filing cabinets and catalogued by surname or by subject name. These files are a hodge-podge of records and could contain just about anything that can fit into a file folder. This presentation will show the genealogist how to find these records and how to use them.

The ABC's and 123's of Researching Your Ancestor's School Records

The records of local public schools and universities can valuable resources for finding information about your ancestors. Even if your ancestors didn't attend school, you would be surprised by what you can find in school records about them. This webinar will show you what types of school records there are and how to find them in repositories.

Using Archives to Fill the Gaps in Your Ancestor's Timeline

Do you have gaps of missing information in your ancestor's timeline? Using archives and the records they hold can fill in those gaps. Learn about unique records that are found in archives that will help to tell your ancestor's story and add information to your ancestor's timeline.

What Your Ancestor's Neighbors Can Tell You

Our ancestors did not live in isolation, although we sometimes research them as they did. They were part of a community of friends, neighbors, classmates and even co-workers. Whether they lived in big cities, small towns or rural farming communities, your ancestor's neighbors could help you with your research. Using records in archives could be the key to finding information about your ancestors through their neighbors.

Please contact Melissa at:

E-Mail: melissabarker20@hotmail.com

Phone: 931-721-3681

Mailing Address:

Melissa Barker

P.O. Box 215

Tennessee Ridge, TN. 37178