

## DRAFT RootsTech 2016 Syllabus - **Audacity and the Power of Audio Editing**

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Instructor: Andrew Lee andrewplee@yahoo.com

### **I. Rationale:**

With the invention of the cassette tape, many families were able to record interviews with their ancestors for the first time. These audio recordings can now be digitized and made available for all of your extended family members to enjoy.

### **II. Course Purpose and Objectives:**

#### ***Purpose***

The student will walk away knowing how to process an audio recording using Audacity to make small audio stories that can easily be uploaded and shared with others. Audacity is a free audio editor that has all of the tools needed for the family historian to edit old cassette recordings.

#### ***Specific Learning Objectives:***

By the end of this course, students will:

- Know how to transfer a cassette recording to the computer
- Identify the different types of audio files
- Identify natural breaks within a recording
- Cut the audio file into small segments (like songs on a CD)
- Identify distracting speech patterns
- Use Audacity to fix distracting speech patterns

### **III. Prerequisite/What is NOT covered:**

Class will not cover the process of creating CDs or uploading audio files

Class will not cover advanced editing like noise reduction or combining audio tracks

Class will not cover converting between audio file formats

Students should understand the basics of using a computer

### **IV. Format**

Class will be in a lecture format using a live example to take you through the steps of processing a recording. Questions will be allowed throughout the class.

### **V. Instructor Background**

Andy is a member of Toastmaster's International and has competed and won several storytelling competitions. He has been using Audacity for digital recordings and processing for more than 10 years. He has been involved in his own family history work for more than 25 years. He has presented at Family History Conferences, local genealogical societies, and

community continuing education seminars in Iowa and Texas on story writing, interviewing, genetic genealogy, and other topics.