



2017 TFG  
Conference

# Tales from an Itinerant Timber Framer

*Arvel Aldridge*  
*Defiance, MO*

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Running a full-blown timber framing business is a challenge. Finding clients, employees, materials, tooling, supporting technologies, estimating, contracts, etc., is often too daunting to tackle all at once when you are starting out. There is an alternative for the craftsperson who needs to experience and learn before diving in...and you can make a buck. The world of an itinerant carpenter/joiner is definitely not for everyone, but for some of us, it's one of the best experiences that this trade can offer.

Arvel Aldridge will share his many experiences as an itinerant timber framer, along with tips for travel and work, challenges and opportunities, and much more.

## **About the Speaker**

### **Arvel Aldridge**

Arvel Aldridge of New Melle, MO, has been involved with timber framing since attending a Cornerstones class in 1982. He started his career as an itinerant craftsman in 1988 to gain experience. His business's projects have run the gamut from owner-builders, trimber framing, room additions, high-end residences, timber trusses, a winery, and an 8,000 sq. ft. dining hall for the Salvation Army. This has also been interspersed with occasional itinerant work for other companies. In 2008, he closed the doors to his timber framing business, but has continued to cherish the opportunity for itinerant work. His wife Barbara retired in 2013, and since then they've been traveling almost full-time, often as a fringe benefit of his work.