



TRIBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST FRAUDS

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Investigative Report Summary

**Subject: Dr. John Ronald Lowe
born 7-16-56 (Chestertown, Maryland)**

**Sovereign Nations / identity falsely claimed: Cherokee, Lenape, Creek,
Osage, Powhatan (at current count....)**

**Determination: Zero American Indian ancestry found in Dr. Lowe's
genealogy and zero connection to any legitimate tribal nation**

Date: 3-6-24

Dr. John Lowe, an educator in the nursing field whose academic work has focused on American Indian populations, has falsely claimed, for several decades, to be a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, to be Lenape, Creek, Powhatan (and related to Pocahontas) AND Osage (related to the Osage women documented in Killers of the Flower Moon). None of which is true.

Dr. Lowe has falsely claimed, for decades, that his father, James Thomas Lowe, Sr., (11-16-23 / 12-14-14, born Prince Edward County, VA) was a full-blooded Cherokee man. In fact, his father was purely of European ancestry. He falsely claimed that his father taught him how to be Cherokee, which would be impossible. He claims that his paternal "Cherokee" grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Woodall (b. 1882 / 10-30-33 b. Farmville, VA; she was a woman of purely European ancestry), who only spoke Cherokee, raised him on the Cherokee Qualla Boundary... We suspect he was actually raised in Chestertown, Maryland. The problem with that claim is that she actually died 23 years before he was born. His mother, Mary E. Betty Seward (12-22-28 / 3-10-78 b. Dixon, Queen Anne's, Maryland), whom he says died when he was a small child, actually died when he was a young adult, in 1978. He claims his mother was half Lenape. This is not true either. But this is how he claims a $\frac{3}{4}$ blood quantum. A very bold lie for a white man.

John Lowe talks about his "EBCI relatives" who live on the Qualla Boundary but never names them. Who are they, exactly? Name them, Dr. Lowe. Have them come forward to claim you.

Dr. Lowe's genealogy also shows zero Lenape, Osage, Powhatan or Creek ancestry. His genealogy proves that he has no American Indian ancestry whatsoever.

<https://emfp.org/sites/default/files/uploads/MinorityNurseFall2008.pdf>

In Minority Nurse-an article by John Lowe tells the story that his father was a Cherokee Indian living in North Carolina on the reservation. Reference to the official letter from the Eastern Band Cherokee Indians that John, his father, and none of his siblings are members of that tribe.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eg46tJpV_Y0

Mental Health Trailblazers talk with the MFP (Minority Fellowship).

1. He speaks of his maternal grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Woodall, who raised him (and spoke only Cherokee). She died in 1933, twenty-three years before he was born.
2. Records show he was born in Chestertown, MD, not on the Eastern Band Cherokee Indian (EBCI) Reservation.
3. He states that he is the first Native American male to receive a Ph.D. in nursing. He routinely tells people he is among 25 Native Americans with a Ph.D. in nursing.

<https://news.miami.edu/sonhs/stories/2021/11/a-conversation-with-john-lowe-phd-96.html>

Conversation with Dean Munroe. Claims to be an EBCI Tribal Member.

All the genealogy and documentation can be found on the Tribal Alliance Against Frauds website under “Investigations”, then “Dr. John Lowe”.

<https://tribalallianceagainstfrauds.org/>

You can also see the victim impact statements we are collecting there regarding the very real harm that Dr. Lowe has caused actual American Indian people. As they come in, they will be posted.

Dr. Lowe has taken funds intended for bonafide American Indian people.

He took SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) funds to fund his personal doctoral schooling by falsely claiming to be a “Cherokee tribal member”, which is yet another outright lie.

<https://nursing.utexas.edu/faculty/john-lowe>

UT Austin wanted to hire an American Indian professor and thought they found one in Dr. Lowe but sadly, they had no idea how to vet his false claims. Everyone who has accepted his lies as truth are his victims.

Link where John claims to be a ‘Cherokee Tribal Member on an NIH funded site and claims to be the first American Indian man to earn a PhD in nursing and to be inducted into the FAAN (a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK586513/>

He is currently a guest editor of Archives of Psychiatric Nursing for a special edition regarding the “mental health of Indigenous people”. He got that position by falsely claiming to be “Cherokee, Creek and Lenape”. A bold lie.

The editors of that special edition should be legitimate First Peoples, not lying frauds.

Dr. Lowe is defrauding every tuition paying student and parent who believe they are being taught by a bonafide American Indian professor. How is he getting away with teaching an “Indigenous methods” class? He has no “Indigenous” perspective. He was raised as a white person. What he knows about American Indian people he learned by being a tourist and embedding himself amongst us by lying about being one of us, self-tanning, dying his hair and wearing lots of beads... That’s his brand. And a common pretendian tactic. His utter lack of academic honesty and integrity have resulted in academic dishonesty and fraud by lying about who he is at the most basic level. Everything he has ever done is tainted with lies.

Another harm caused by Dr. Lowe and other pretendians like him is the division and animosity he creates among real American Indian people as we take sides regarding his fraud. It’s more lies and trauma on top of generations of lies and trauma we have still not healed from. Because some will defend him, because like most pretendians, he wormed his way into some hearts early on in his fraud, by claiming to be one of us, and hoping those friends would have his back when others caught on to his fraud. And others will hold him accountable for his fraud. And those two groups of bonafide American Indian people will argue. So we end up fighting over it. Very harmful.

And some defenders will say “but he’s done good works”. Why is it that when white people “do good things”, oftentimes done to center themselves, to make themselves relevant, to protect their fraud, they are seen, heard and lauded so much more than when American Indian people do good things?

As Cedar Sherbert said in an excerpt from his presentation in 2024’s 2nd annual webinar “Unsettling Genealogies”:

“They did such good things” erases the collective work of the (American Indian) community.... Most of all, “they did such good things” tells Indian communities “you’re not smart enough and you’ve done nothing. You’re not capable, but this (non-Indian) person is. Let them speak for you!” It tells Indians to be grateful for crumbs, to accept a status quo of permanent victimhood and elevate one and only one, because too many Indians speaking up at the same time is seen as a threat. And despite all the empathetic and pro-Native sentiment it’s supposed to convey, “they did such good things” in fact reflects a very white, very Western strain of thought that puts the desires and accomplishments of the individual firmly and unquestioningly above those of the collective.”

“Doing good things” does not absolve a person from stealing an identity that does not belong to them. Ethnic identity fraud, often referred to as ‘pretendianism’, is an assault on the inherent sovereignty of every federally recognized tribe. It is disrespectful, offensive and unacceptable. It is anti-American Indian. Excusing and bypassing this type of fraud enables pretendians to commodify (while at the same time distorting) American Indian history and cultures, including our ceremonies and languages. It contributes to our erasure and genocide, which is ongoing.

Dr. John Lowe must be exposed and held accountable.

END REPORT.