



Write and Share Family Stories

Family historians and genealogists are passionate seekers of knowledge who delve into records, archives, and more. But no matter the level of research prowess, writing family stories may feel like a daunting task.

Shaking off writer's block is a journey of capturing one tale at a time. It could be a brief biographical sketch. Perhaps it's a narrative that speaks to your family's resilience or fortune. This adds a richness that data alone cannot provide, preserving not just facts, but emotions and legacies. Keep in mind it's important to simply begin; just write—or, if it is easier, use speech-to-text tools—and know that you can polish it up later.

The stories of our ancestors weave the fabric of who we are today. Don't let your stories fade away; put them on paper and share them, ensuring they can live on with future generations.



Prompts to Spark Your Family Storytelling

A Memoir of Yourself: Write about where you grew up, went to school, your career, marriage, and other life milestones.

Recordings and Videos: Listen to or watch old family recordings. They can be a catalyst for related stories you may want to write.

Pictures: Look at family photos. Describe the people or the events captured in images and elaborate on them.

Family Heirlooms: Narrate the history of family heirlooms, specifying when and where they came from and to whom they belonged.

Newspaper Articles: Use an article as a jumping-off point for a bigger family story.

Historical Records: Pool together data from various historical documents to craft your narrative.

Sports or Hobbies: Detail accounts of family members with specific talents or interests; these make for intriguing stories.



Resources to Boost Your Writing

Below are some places to start finding motivation, guidance, or services used by people in the family history community.

Ancestry

Resources, collections, data, and a blog that may help you start writing about ancestors.

[ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

Ancestry and NGS, "Behind the Scenes with Ancestry Story Producers"

A video recording of a conversation with Lisa Elzey and Nicka Sewell-Smith.

youtu.be/2m3Auyf3Jio

FamilySearch Wiki, "Create a Family History"

Expert tips in the "Start Writing" section.

familysearch.org/en/wiki/Create_a_Family_History

Genealogy Stories, "How to go from Boring to Brilliant Family History Writing"

Blog with suggestions to plan your writing and keep it fun.

genealogystories.co.uk/how-to-go-from-boring-to-brilliant-family-history-writing

PCMag, "The Best Speech-to-Text Apps and Tools for Every Type of User"

An overview of accessible speech-to-text options with various devices and software.

pcmag.com/picks/best-speech-to-text-apps-and-tools

Storied, "Stories"

Tips and resources to inspire writing plus some subscription access to records.

storied.com/stories

Storyworth

Weekly prompts emailed for one year to capture stories and a hardcover book is sent when finished.

welcome.storyworth.com

Warts and All, "Writer's Block"

Blog on overcoming writer's block and creating pen portraits with writing prompts.

wartsandall.blog/2019/06/25/writers-block

