

### Why You Need to Write Your Family History

By Stephen M Szabados

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Find Your Family History & Polish Genealogy

We all have family stories that give insights into the lives our ancestors. Some are entertaining, others are celebrations of our cultural heritage and others are more historical in nature. They all should be saved for future generations.

You may find it hard to believe that your family history is important to save. You should consider that all of our immigrant ancestors contributed to America's history and their stories should be saved for our grandchildren. The farmers and the factory workers contributed their efforts to the growth of America alongside all of the names listed in the history books. Our family histories should give clues of their roles and this will help us understand our roots.

Your collection of family oral histories, photos and documents are incomplete unless someone writes an explanation of how they are related. This creates your unique family history and is the core of why someone needs to write them down for the enjoyment of your children and grandchildren. You may be reluctant to capture these stories because you do not consider yourself a writer. This can seem to be a very challenging project for many people. If you feel you do not have the skills to do this, who in your family can? If you like to do the research, is there someone that can work with you to write it? It is important to understand that someone in your family should capture and save the oral histories now before the stories are further diluted or lost completely.

I also find it difficult to write. However, I began creating summaries for the individuals that I was researching and I used these as quick reference pages. When I discovered that these short summaries could easily be read by other family members, the summaries were slowly expanded to create my family history.

If you are interested in telling your family stories, please try to overcome your fears of writing and try to commit your family story to the written word. Using summaries as a starting point is a simple method for organizing your information that can stand alone and then later be combined into larger documents that become your family history. Include oral history, family pictures and genealogical documents and you will create a readable and interesting document that suddenly becomes your family history.

Don't be afraid to begin. Concentrate on finding one story and then another by doing the research. Finding the small pieces will make the task easier and will be fun. Eventually the small pieces will begin to fit together and the overall story that is your family history will appear.

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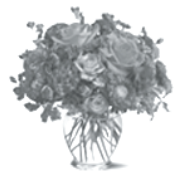
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