

# Contents

## **1. Why Write? Getting Started**

No one else can tell your story. And your story is too good to lose. So start out right to make a permanent record. Guidelines for writing.

**Consider Other Media  
Getting Started  
Join (or Start) a Group**

## **2. Tell A Good Story**

Don't worry about starting at the beginning. Just tell any good story. And another. And another.

Running Away From Home  
Earliest Memories of 290 Verona Avenue, Newark, New Jersey  
My Earliest Memory  
The First House I Remember

**Keep a List of Topics**

## **3. Family Sayings**

What are the sayings and jokes and stories that stick in your memory and perhaps still get repeated at family gatherings?

Family Sayings

## **4. Write About Family Members, Other Relatives, and Friends**

The people in your life are part of your life -- and your life story.

Grandma -- The Last Victorian  
Bill Durham  
Aunt Frances

## **5. Include Pictures**

Photos and snapshots will bring your stories to life.

**Headaches  
Experiment!**

## **6. Weaving a Multi-Dimensional Image: Layering**

A technique for doing, one step at a time, what you will later do from the start: building in dialogue, gesture, appearance, setting, emotions, and background.

## **7. *Bring Family History Alive***

Use family records; research genealogies.

## **8. *Tie In With Local, National, or World History***

Correlate family information with larger social trends.

Family Origins

The Coming of Miltie

## **9. *Look for Meaning -- Words for Living***

What is the meaning of your stories? your story?

## **10. *Keep the Mystery***

You don't have to have all the answers. A mystery is still a good story.

**Skeletons in the Closet**

## **11. *Re-Write, Re-Work, Re-Tell***

A good story will be even better if you re-work it.

**The Hook**

## **12. *Copy, Distribute, Share***

The writing is just the beginning. Here's how to get your articles ready to share with family.

**Start Sharing Now!**

**Turn It Into a Book**

## **13. *Start Your Own Group***

If there isn't a group available, you can easily start your own. Here's how.

**Start a Group**

**Reminiscence Group Guidelines (Suggested)**

## ***Appendix***

The Chief

What I Did in the War

First Love

Richard Hill

The Castle

The Monster on the Dock

Famous Author Michener Visits Chatham Class

Making Mother Happy

Dr. Carlyle Marney

Lost in Europe