

PUBLISHING YOUR GENEALOGICAL WORK

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TWO PARTS:

1. WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY
2. GETTING YOUR BOOK IN PRINT

WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Gathering the facts and sources

Creating your database

Deciding on a format

Transforming your database into readable pages



- ▶ When to start? No time like the present.
- ▶ How long does it take? A lot of time and a lot of preparation work
- ▶ Have you gathered enough information yet? You never have enough
- ▶ Do you actually know what to do? We will give you guidelines.
- ▶ Do you know how to start? Ask yourself some questions first

WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Characteristics of a Quality Family History

- A Quality family history presents quality research - research that is thorough, new, and based on a variety of primary sources.
- A quality family history is well-organized, understandable, and attractively presented.
- A quality family history uses a recognized genealogical numbering system
- A quality family history documents every fact and relationship fully.
- A quality family history expresses information accurately, indicating the likelihood of conclusions.
- A quality family history goes beyond records, placing people in context.
- A quality family history includes illustrations such as maps, charts, and photographs.
- A quality family history has a thoughtful and thorough index.

Desktop/Web Genealogy Software:

Computer programs that will store your information, print out reports and make books.

Some include Roots Magic, Family TreeMaker, The Master Genealogist, AncestralQuest, Ages!, My Family Tree, Legacy Family Tree, Ancestry Online, The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding (TNG), etc

You can also use Word, Word Perfect and other basic word processors (but you have to do a lot more work organizing and typing)

ORGANIZING YOUR INFORMATION

- ▶ A genealogy book is a specific type of book.
- ▶ The Goal: A Quality Family History complete and accurate enough to last for generations (well, really, forever we hope)
- ▶ Visit the library or archives to look at other family genealogy books. Notice the different styles and how the information is presented.
- ▶ Biographies, memoirs, diary and letter collections, fiction sagas based on truth
- ▶ Reference genealogies are reference books, names, facts and dates.
- ▶ Family history narratives tell a story of the family in narrative form similar to a novel.
- ▶ Just something for the family? Computer printout
- ▶ Somewhere in between.
- ▶ Genealogical narrative takes the facts and incorporates stories, biographical material and can be used as research tool. We will focus on genealogical narratives which are popular

WHAT GENRE OF BOOK TO PUBLISH

- ▶ Put some thought into choosing your title.
- ▶ Who, when and where.
- ▶ Make the title pertain to the subject of the book. Include the ancestor and surname or surnames.
- ▶ Use catchy phrases for the subtitle.
- ▶ Remember that researchers looking for your book or your ancestor will be looking at the spine of the book, a computer catalog or another listing in a library or archive which may include only the first few words of a work title

THE TITLE OF YOUR WORK

Research the history. Make sure you know about events that are happening during the time your ancestor lived. Imagine what things were like with they were alive.

Make sure everything you write is reasonable. Question age gaps, children's ages, spousal deaths, etc. out of context.

Review all your work and make sure you have documentation of where you got your information. Primary sources are best. Secondary with explanations and explain all deductions and hypothesis. Evidence Explained.

Make sure all grammar, punctuation and spelling is correct. Standardize your language. Chicago Manual of Style

Gather pictures, maps, charts and illustrations

Family stories that can be included as narrative

Review your first draft, proofread your final draft Edit and proof read, edit and proof read. Get friends and relatives to help.

ENSURE YOUR HOMEWORK IS DONE

- ▶ Descendants of one Single ancestor. Earliest ancestor maternal or paternal
- ▶ Descendants of one couple
- ▶ Descendants of the big four. Grandparents
- ▶ All ancestry. granddaddy of all family histories.
- ▶ Cut off point: Spouses' siblings' spouses' siblings?
- ▶ Include living? This ties it to the books audience
- ▶ Break it down into parts

WHICH ANCESTOR?

- ▶ Generate reports or narratives from your genealogy software
- ▶ Output in pdf format
- ▶ Index? Automatic or manual – depends on the software
- ▶ How much to depend on your genealogical software and how much on after (pictures, charts, lists of sources, front matter, etc.
- ▶ Best choice may be using multiple programs

CREATING THE BOOK'S CONTENT

- ▶ Professional book preparation: \$500-5000 up front costs
Packages can include creation of front matter, organizing of content, creation of index, proofing and printing
Drawbacks: book must be priced higher to recoup costs and you may not have future printing control
Advantages: Other people do the work for you
- ▶ Do it yourself: \$150-500 out of pocket
More work creating the necessary pieces: front matter, index, etc
Assembling the book, proofing is all you
Drawbacks: work and time
Advantages: Complete control over finished product, cheaper end cost, complete long term control

GETTING YOUR BOOK PRINTED

- ▶ Cover – a design/picture/colour
- ▶ Front Matter (title page, copyright, dedication, preface, introduction, table of contents, list of illustrations, etc.)
- ▶ The main book content: Narrative, reports, charts, etc.
- ▶ Appendices
- ▶ List of Sources
- ▶ Index

PARTS OF YOUR BOOK

- ▶ Complete (?) your genealogical work
- ▶ Decisions about style and format
- ▶ Gather the front matter, other pieces (content) and create index
- ▶ Assemble all pieces into a single PDF file
- ▶ Order a proof copy
- ▶ Review the proof and find all the mistakes you missed (yes, there will be more than a few)
- ▶ Correct errors and repeat the assembly/proof processes
- ▶ Say you are done (this is the hardest step) and order the final book

STEPS TO PUBLISHING YOUR BOOK