

WRITING AND PUBLISHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Choose a Focus:

- Define the scope
- Who is your audience?
- Are you selling?
- One surname or many?

Organize:

- Do your background research
- Choose a plot and theme
- Creating a timeline/biographical outline
- Interview
- Don't wait until all your research is done.
- Use records and documents

Choose a Starting Point:

- Set deadlines
- Make it personal. Write as though you're telling a story
- Start with what's easy.

Choose a Format and Layout:

Narrative: Typically tells a story about a group of ancestors. It can be about one family line or several, and can include as many generations as you wish.

Memoir: Talks about part of one person's life

Biography: Focuses on a single ancestor's entire life.

Cookbook: Includes family recipes and the stories of the people who created them.

Photo Album: Tell your story using photos
What do you want to include?

- Narratives/biographies
- Family group sheets
- Descendant charts (use established genealogical formats: NGS Quarterly, Register Report, Ahnentafel (ancestry))
- Documents
- Photos
- Letters
- Signatures
- Physical descriptions

Maps: town, county, state, plat, migration
Social history
Drawings or pictures of houses, homesteads

- Suggested format:
1. Table of Contents
 2. Narratives
 3. Family charts, descendant charts
 4. Interviews/Narratives of living descendants
 5. Appendices (additional photos, pedigree charts, documents, etc.)
 6. Bibliography (books or other materials you used in your research)
 7. Documentation (your sources of information) Can be left out if only for family, not other researchers
 8. Index: easiest to use a genealogy program that does this automatically. If it does not list women under maiden and married name, create a separate list to cross reference.

Publishing:

Self-publishing

Finding a printer

On-demand publishing

Useful Websites:

http://www.genealogy.com/sharing_research.html

<http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/compass/7004.asp>

<http://ancestry.com/library/view/columns/compass/7024.asp>

http://genealogy.about.com/od/writing_family_history/Writing_Publishing_Your_Family_History.htm

<http://www.cyndislist.com/writing.htm>

<http://www.byub.org/ancestors/records/familyhistory/extra.html>

Useful Books:

Complete Workbook for Doing Your Own Family History, The; by Lynda Fay Katers

For All Time: A Complete Guide to Writing Your Family History; by Charley Kempthorne

How to Publish and Market Your Family History; by Carl Boyer

How to Write and Publish Your Family Book; by Genealogy Publishing Service

Producing a Quality Family History; by Patricia L. Hatcher

Write It Yourself II: A Guide to Compiling and Publishing Your Genealogy or Family History; by Wiley R. Pope

This syllabus was taken extensively from **Annette Madden**. **Annette Madden** is a member of the AAGSNC Board of Directors. She is the author of *In Her Footsteps*. On May 17, 2003, Annette was facilitator of the AAGSNC workshop entitled **Publishing 101 - Writing and Publishing Your Story. Thank you to her!**