

Be Your Family's Yarnspinner

Collecting information – Recording stories – Organizing – Writing – Sharing your family's history and stories

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Who am I to know how to spin a yarn?

- ❖ Yarn spinner, knitter, crocheter
- ❖ Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother
- ❖ Book reader , book writer
- ❖ Veteran Teacher
- ❖ World traveler
- ❖ Linguist
- ❖ Granddaughter of an amazing story telling Granddad.

Mining for stories

- Always have a recorder, notebook and writing implement or computer.
- Go to the oldest family members first.
- Have one family member talk about another
- Save letters, asks others if they have old letters
- Ask to look at family albums ask about the photos, when, where, who, what?.
- Ask about antiques, unusual items displayed, hobbies
- Check small town newspapers for “20 years ago, 50 years ago” sections
- Share your information – get feedback and listen for more information.

Where to Find Photos

- Family Albums
- Baby Albums
- Yearbooks
- Old purses, wallets
- Desk drawers
- Photos on the walls
- Local newspapers
- Stuck in Bibles, cookbooks

❖ **Always have a camera**

- ❖ Always ask permission to photograph
- ❖ Always listen for the stories about the photos
- ❖ Always take photos of the people you interview
- ❖ Always take notes, digitally or written

Using Digital Recorders

- You can request a packet from the Genealogical Library in Independence and pick it up at your local Mid-Continent. You check it out just like a book.
- Contents of the zipper bag:
 - A digital recorder
 - Extra batteries
 - Prompt questions for personal histories
 - Stop, Pause, Go cards
- Upon returning you can receive a CD of your recordings / They can archive the interview in their records

Story Corps

<https://storycorps.org/discover/education/lesson-tips-for-effective-interviews/>

- Great prompt questions
- See / hear others interviewing their relatives
- Archive options

StoryWorth – a gift to the giver

<https://welcome.storyworth.com/>

- A gift of prompts and at the end of the year a bound book
- Cost for a year \$99. additional books \$39.
- Each week you choose a question for your storyteller relative. They reply in an email. You get a copy!
- End of year : bound book arrives.

Book prompts

“Reflections from a Mother’s Heart” / “A Father’s Legacy”:
Prompts in non-chronological order.

Examples:

What was your favorite outfit as a girl?

Where was your favorite place to read a book?

Get Your Book Printed – Woodneath Library

<https://www.mymcpl.org/locations/woodneath-library-center>

Ms. Sahara Scott – Printing Manager

8900 NE Flintlock Road

Kansas City, MO 64157

[\(816\)883-4900](tel:(816)883-4900)

Expresso Printing Press – help to set up your book for printing.

Base cost There is a flat fee of 10 dollars plus 5 cents per page charge, and local sales tax. For example, if you wanted to print a 100-page book, it would cost \$16.37. Only debit/credit card or cash payment will be accepted. MCPL cannot accept checks for Woodneath Press fees.

- Bulk orders of 50 books or more will receive %15 off.
- Discounts are available for educational institutions and partner organizations.

Are you competitive?

National Novel Writing Month – November! <https://nanowrimo.org>

- NaNoWriMo helps you track your progress, set milestones, connect with other writers in a vast community, and participate in events that are designed to make sure you finish your novel. Oh, and best of all, it’s free!
- November 1-30, hundreds of thousands of people around the world begin to write, with a goal of 50,000 words of a brand-new novel in 30 days.
- NaNoWriMo is a nonprofit organization that supports writing fluency and education. It tracks words for writers like Fitbit tracks steps for the ambulatory.

Don’t forget to write your own story

- I started with a journal.
- A page for each decade of my life
- One line prompts to remind me of stories as I thought of them.
- When each page was filled I reorganized by every five years. Then by the year.
- Ended up with 3 single spaced pages typed as an outline of stories. That was the beginning.

- One NaNoWriMo the year I was on my mission in Argentina (2012-2014) I started writing. My goal was four pages a day.
- The editing when I got home was helped by interviewing my sisters!

Another idea: The Shoebox

- Put index cards in a recipe box or shoebox with a pen or pencil. Put it by your TV chair or bed.
- When you think of an event in your life, write the date of the event, make a couple of notes, or one sentence to remind you on an index card. Toss it back in the box.
- When you start accumulating cards, organize them into packs of decades.
- When the decade piles get too big, get some dividers and go to every 5 years, then organize the sections in date order
- Now start writing. You can go to an outline of the notes you wrote, or just start writing!

One more idea: Interview yourself!

- ❖ Get an audio recorder and some prompt questions
- ❖ Start doing one or two a night
- ❖ Collect your data
- ❖ Interview those who have known you for a long time, family, friends, co-workers.
- ❖ Just start writing
- ❖ BTW there are computer programs that allow you to dictate your stories and the program writes it for you!