

## YOUR family history starts with YOU

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### Snapshots: Start Where You Are

#### 1. Don't catch up!

You may have a fresh start any moment you choose,  
for this thing we call 'failure' is not the falling down,  
but the staying down.

#### 2. Ideas for starting fresh:

- **Celebrations:** How do you celebrate, what do you celebrate, what is the most recent celebration you had?
- **Changes:** Did you have a change this year, in the size of your family, a death, a birth, a wedding, an adoption? Did you move or change jobs?
- **Headlines:** What are some of the national or world headlines that matter to you? Why do they capture your attention?
- **Travels:** Where have you traveled this year, why did you travel, who did you travel with? Where do you want to travel, why?
- **Favorites:** Food, Movie, Songs, Restaurants, Clothes, Flower, Scripture, Poem, Day, People, Thing to do, Place to sit, Why?
- **Profiles:** The basics - age, physical description, address, parents, siblings, spouse, children, employment, schooling
- **A Day In The Life:** For a week/month write down your daily routine.
- **Spaces and Places:** Write down, or capture photos of where you live, the different places you go, include how you feel about those places, why you go there, who you see there.
- **Dreams:** What are your dreams, your hopes for you, for your posterity, why?
- **Social Media:** If you use social media, there are some great ways to capture your "snapshots" shared through those platforms. You thought you were just sharing with friends - capture it and you're doing family history while you're at it!

### Creating A Family Library

#### 1. Not someday, today.

There are seven days in a week  
Someday is not one of them.

#### 2. Wired for stories: Naked Truth

"The truth is more important than the facts." ~Frank Lloyd Wright

#### 3. Reference Books vs. Treasured Nuggets

Our lives are a collection of stories - a library of our own books.

#### 4: Ideas for YOUR library

##### Story Topics:

- **Stories of Immigration**
- **Unsung, or Reluctant Hero**
- **A Love Story**
- **War/Survivor Story**
- **Pioneer/Farming Life**
- **Rags to Riches**
- **Sacrifices Made for Belief or Convictions**
- **A Change In Plans**
- **Hobbies, Holidays & Celebrations**
- **Lessons About Life**

##### Famous First Lines (for inspiration):

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)

All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." Leo Tolstoy: *Anna Karenina* (1878)

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way." Charles Dickens: *A Tale Of Two Cities* (1859)

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen." George Orwell: *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)

"In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. Whenever you feel like criticising any one, he told me, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby* (1925)

"The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there." L. P. Hartley: *The Go-Between* (1953)

"There was no possibility of taking a walk that day." Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre* (1847)

### Writing Is A Second Language

#### Let's Practice!

- **Pair & Share:** Tell your story
- **Bullets:** Outline story using key words from your story
- **Sentences:** Set a timer, write for only 4-5 minutes
- **Images:** Record images that might illustrate your story, for reference later (not now).
- **Repeat:** Keep it going, how many 4-5 minute windows do you have throughout the day?

#### Keep in mind:

1. It is easier to write your story AFTER you have told your story. We learn to talk before we learn to write, sharing our stories follows the same logic. Share your stories, then write them.
2. Start with a question to answer, its easier to tell a story that way, rather than just reciting facts. You can find lots of story starters at [FamilyStorytelling.com](http://FamilyStorytelling.com)
3. The process takes less than 10 minutes for 1 question, with questions and a notepad on hand, you can write your story anywhere, anytime!