Your Family History: Thinking About Different Ways to Share Your History

Dr. Emily Richardson

Email: kinsearchers@gmail.com
Website: kinsearchers.weebly.com

Possible Ways to Share Your Family History

- Photo Book
  - Design Companies
    - Shutterfly
    - Forever
    - MixBook
  - Consider Your Audience
  - More Photos, More Pages, More Cost
  - Need good quality pictures
  - Spend time thinking about captions

- Produce a Slideshow of pictures and captions
  - Use PowerPoint
  - Who is in the Picture?
  - What is happening in the picture?
  - When was it taken?
  - Don’t forget memorabilia
  - Show at a family reunion or holiday event

- A Video
  - Can Use PowerPoint, Phone or Video Camera
  - Think about the audience, that will steer the narration
  - Distribute using Vimeo or YouTube

- A Newsletter
  - Monthly or 2x a year
  - Consider asking others to submit content
  - Demonstrate your research on your family
  - Include pictures

- A Facebook Page
  - A separate Facebook account dedicated to your Surname or Family
  - How often do you post? Important, as it stays active on feeds
  - Crowdsourcing: asking others to post pictures, or memories

- A Blog
  - Short stories – 500 to 750 words
- Can use Weebly or WordPress as hosts
- Will need to pick a name
- Need to write daily
- Use prompts
  - Lisa Alzo (see below)
  - Amy Johnson Crow – 52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks
- Keep a Journal for ideas
- A Grandmother’s Book
  - Purchase one in a store – or create in Word
  - Pictures and stories of your life and that of your child
  - Use prompts as ideas for interviewing others in your family
  - Don’t forget the Advice Page
- A Complete Family History Book
  - Before the Book – consider writing research reports
  - Write as you research
  - Focus your research using questions
  - Keep track of your sources, use citations
  - Analyze your findings and write about what you discovered
  - Types of family history books
    - Memoir/narrative
    - Generations
    - Theme Based – i.e. all military people
  - Demonstrate your research
  - Make sure the facts are right
  - Interview others
- Join the November Writing Challenge
  - https://nanowrimo.org

PROMPTS
- The course of _____’s life totally changed when….
- A big mystery in my family history is….
- If I could meet _____, I would ask him/her _____ and this is why….
- I am fascinated by my “black sheep” ancestor, who….
- My ancestor lived through a (frightening, important, rapidly-changing) time in history. Here’s what was going on, and here’s his/her story.
- A great love story in my family is the story about _____ and _____. This is how it goes.
- I often wonder whether the life of _____ was as (sad/exciting/lonely/boring) as I imagine. Here’s what I know….