

Presentation to San Ramon Genealogical Society

Handout for “I Remember ... Thoughts and practices on writing a personal history.”

Choosing a type

- Memoir
- Autobiography
- Journal
- Story Time
- Recollections and reflections

Books

- Ryan Van Cleave, *Memoir Writing for Dummies*,
- Mary Borg, *Writing Your Life: A Guide to Writing Autobiographies*,
- Richard Campbell, *The Step-By-Step Guide to Crafting Your Life Story*
- D. G. Fulford, *One Memory at a Time: Inspiration and Advice for Writing Your Family Story*
- Richard (George) Campbell, *Writing your legacy : the step-by-step guide to crafting your life story*

Choosing a Guide

- Plenty of choices
- Books
- Articles
- Blogs
- Listening to your inner muse
- Just start!

Parents and Family

- Moms, dads and caregivers
- Grand parents
- Aunts, uncles and those pesky cousins
- All those other relatives I vaguely remember
- Ancestors: real or imagined
- Family stories

Childhood

- Day care
- After school
- Homework
- Weekends
- Plays, events, ceremonies, performances
- Sports
- Best friends

- Enemies
- Chores and/or jobs
- Radio, television, movies
- Trips (zoos and whatnot)
- Pets

Holidays

- Christmas
- Thanksgiving
- Birthdays
- Fourth of July
- New Years
- [Insert] (Your family favorite)

School

- Pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Elementary
- Middle
- Junior High
- High
- Trade
- College
- Sports and PE
- Dances, homecomings, proms and other events
- Yearbook

Young Adulthood/ The Firsts

- Pet
- Day of School
- Tricycle, bicycle, skates, skateboard
- Date
- Kiss
- Love
- Serious Mistake
- Victory
- Defeat
- Driver's License Test
- Car
- Marriage
- Loss

Starting Out

- Moving out, moving in
- The apartment
- The home and the other houses
- Banks, credit unions and finance
- Life at work
- Work and travel

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- Getting to know each other and ourselves

Weddings and Other Life Events

- First Dates
- Engagements
- Weddings
- Anniversaries
- Retirements
- Funerals

Birth of Children

- First
- Second
- Others
- None at all

Family

- Birthdays
- Holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years
- Family Events, reunions, wakes
- Christenings, bar or bat mitzvahs
- Anniversaries
- Memorable Relatives

Hobbies/Events

- Things you love to do
- Sporting Events
- Bucket List accomplishments
- Movies, books and TV
- Concerts and theater shows
- Sports you participated in over the years

Where were you when ...

Pearl Harbor

- Atomic weapon tests
- JFK's assassination
- Cuban Missile Crises (Oct. 1962)
- Loma Prieta Earthquake (10/17/1989)
- 9/11/2001
- A significant election
- The Raiders Left
- Cal won a football game (The Play, 11/20/1982)

Write

- Find your place
- Find your time
- Get into a routine

- Stick to it, but give yourself some flexibility
- Share
- Write, then edit
- Be proud
- Remember: **It's All About You.**