



When an old person dies a
library burns to the ground.

African Proverb

Who will tell your story?
You, that's who!

- You don't need to be a "writer."
- It's therapeutic to reflect on your accomplishments and experiences.
- Your family/community will thank you.
- You just might inspire someone.
- It's YOUR story to tell, nobody else has your history or your perspective....

Besides, do you *really* want your relatives telling your stories?



Don't procrastinate. Start now!



Don't wait to share your story, even in-progress.
Reap the rewards while you're still here!

You've got options...

- Obituary
- Ethical will/Legacy letter
- Memoir/Autobiography
- Social media
- Life capsules (mini stories)

Know your strengths and limitations.



Attention span, time available, personal style, technical capabilities, resources, level of commitment, motivation level, etc.

Consider your desired audience.



Obituary

(public)

- Newspaper
- Online
- Funeral program

ObitKit®

A Guide to Celebrating
Your Life

*How to personalize the obituary
process and create your written legacy*

By Susan Soper

Traditional obit components

- Birthplace, Birth date, parents' names
- Spouse/partner, children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, pets, companions, caregivers
- Military service
- Education
- Career, awards
- Memberships, affiliations
- Favorite charities
- Color, character

J. Samuel Sherer, 81, was farmer

Jan 1
J. Samuel Sherer, 81, of 2 Kettering Court, Palmyra, died of natural causes Thursday at Lebanon Valley Brethren Home, Palmyra.

A retired farmer, he also worked in the sales and service departments of Star Line and Jamesway.

He attended Florin Church of the Brethren, J. Samuel Sherer Mount Joy.

Born in Lancaster County, he was the son of the late Simon F. and Bertha B. Bricker Sherer.

He was married to Verna M. Schwenk Sherer.

Surviving besides his wife are a daughter, Joanne M., married to Gerald Nolt of Lititz; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Thought starters for “color”

He was a devoted student of _____.

She never met a _____ she didn't like.

She counted _____ among her many friends.

He was especially proud of _____.

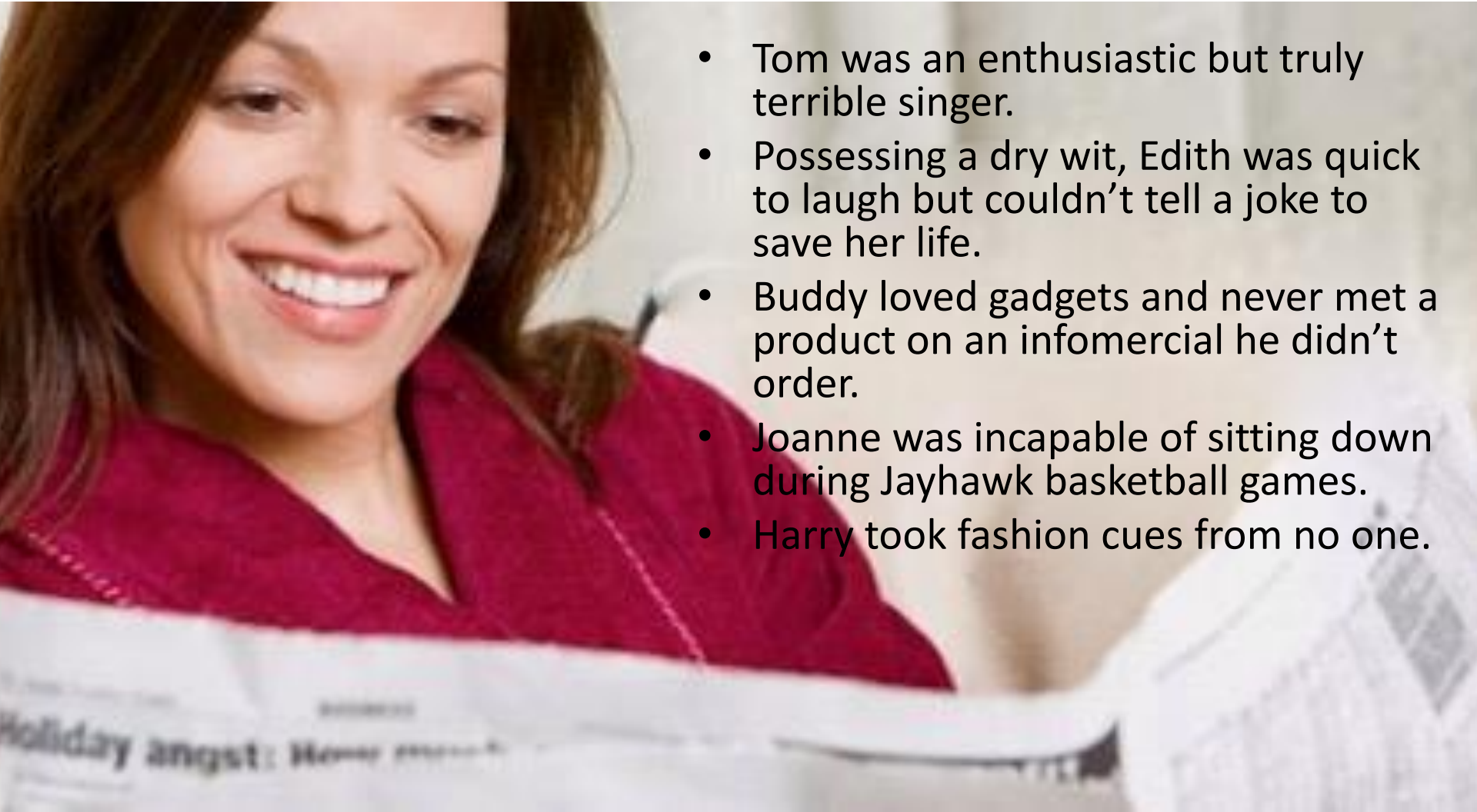
Saturdays in the fall would find him at _____.

She was known for her legendary _____.

Mary was known as “the Mayor of _____.”

His life took an abrupt turn when _____.

Don't be afraid to make 'em smile...



- Tom was an enthusiastic but truly terrible singer.
- Possessing a dry wit, Edith was quick to laugh but couldn't tell a joke to save her life.
- Buddy loved gadgets and never met a product on an infomercial he didn't order.
- Joanne was incapable of sitting down during Jayhawk basketball games.
- Harry took fashion cues from no one.

...or to make a request.

a song each year and sent it to the Cleveland Browns as well as offering other advice on how to run the team. He respectfully requests six Cleveland Browns pall bearers so the Browns can let him down one last time.

Scott was a fun loving, kind and

NBC Nightly News/B. Williams

6:30p

4 WDIV

6:53p



8:30p

nbcnews.com

NBCNIGHTLYNEWS

Doug wasn't much of a storyteller.

...in his home.
...te services will be held.
...gements by Hanson-
...ld Funeral Home in

BIRTHS

Hospitals

n Anderson and Connor
oth Fargo, son, Sanford
Center, Friday, June 26
y and Donald Arneson,
y, N.D., daughter, Sanford
Center, Sunday, June 7
and Brad Beiseker,
ughter, Sanford Medical
ednesday, June 24



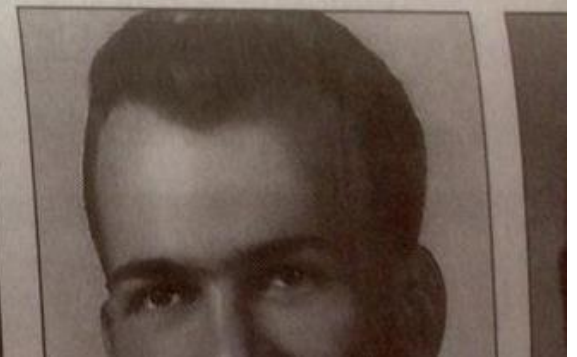
Douglas Legler
Doug Died.

...of Moorhead, MN, Deb (M)
and many nieces, nephews and great
She was preceded in death by her h
Steven; parents, Walter and Marian C
ald Otto.

Visitation: Wednesday, July 1, from
Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead, MN

Funeral: Thursday, July 2, at 11:00
Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN.

Interment: Riverside Cemetery, Far
Video Tribute and online guestbook
com



Ethical will/Legacy letter (private)

- A heartfelt expression of what matters most in your life
- Your life lessons and values
- Blessings, gratitude
- Hopes and dreams for the future
- Expressions of love, regret, forgiveness
- For family, friends, community – indiv/group
- NOT a legal document

Ethical will/Legacy letter

CelebrationsOfLife.net



Ethical Wills / Legacy Letters

Your Legacy of Values

An ethical will, or legacy letter, is a way to share your values, blessings, life's lessons, hopes and dreams for the future, love, and forgiveness with your family, friends, and community.

An ethical will is not a legal document; it does not distribute your material wealth. It is a heartfelt expression of what truly matters most in your life.

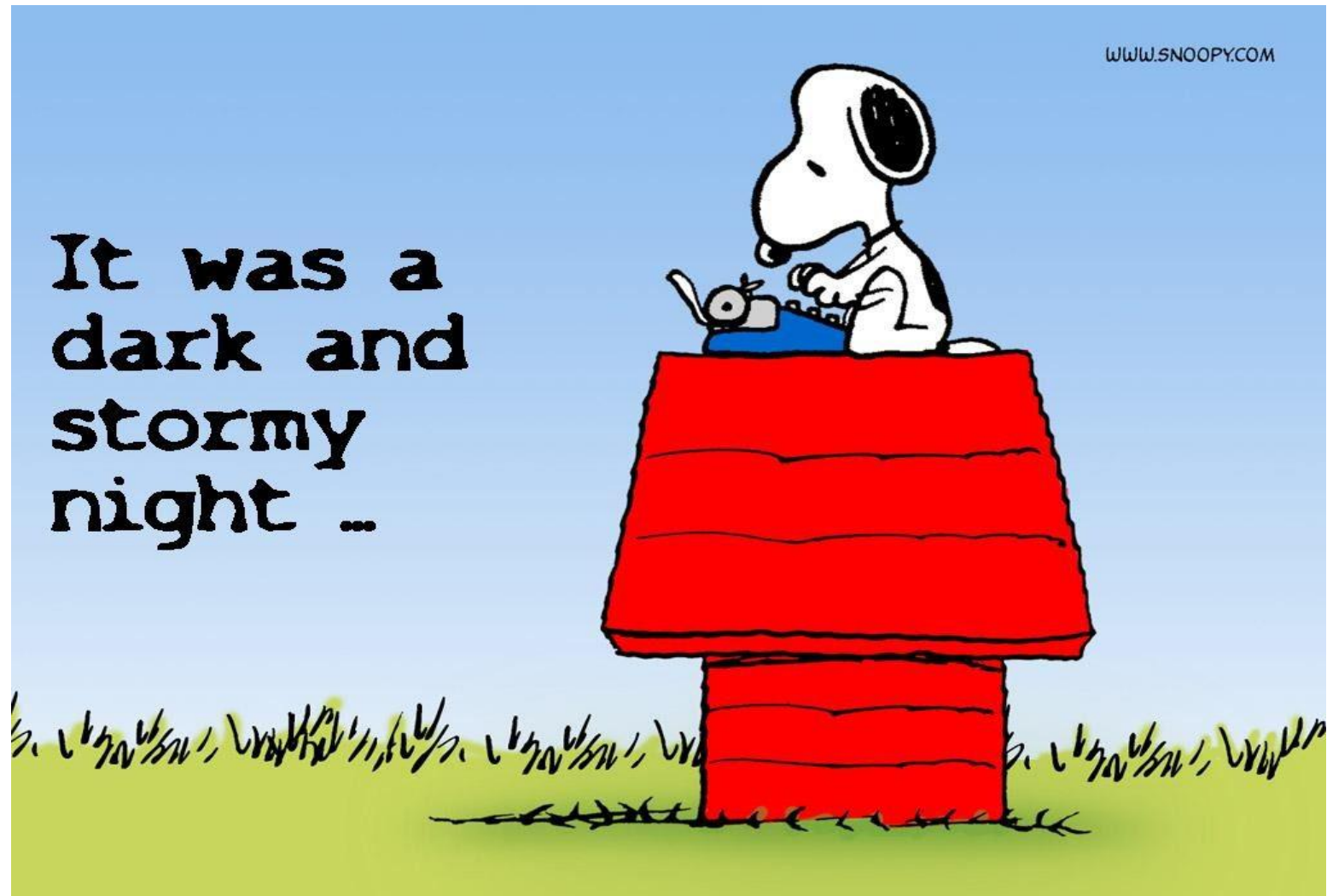
Ethical Wills / Legacy Letters

- What is an Ethical Will?
- Ethical Will Examples
Written by people at different stages of life
- How to Write an Ethical Will
- Our Team of Independent Facilitators
- Preserving your Ethical Will

How will you be remembered?



Memoir or Autobiography (public or private)



Memoir vs. Autobiography

Autobiography is your entire life story.

- “I was born in a Cottonwood Falls cabin during a raging snowstorm
- “After elementary school, our family moved to the Texas-Mexico border and life would never be the same.
- “With diploma in hand, I set out for my personal Mecca, New York City.”

(Ambitious, time-consuming, worthwhile.

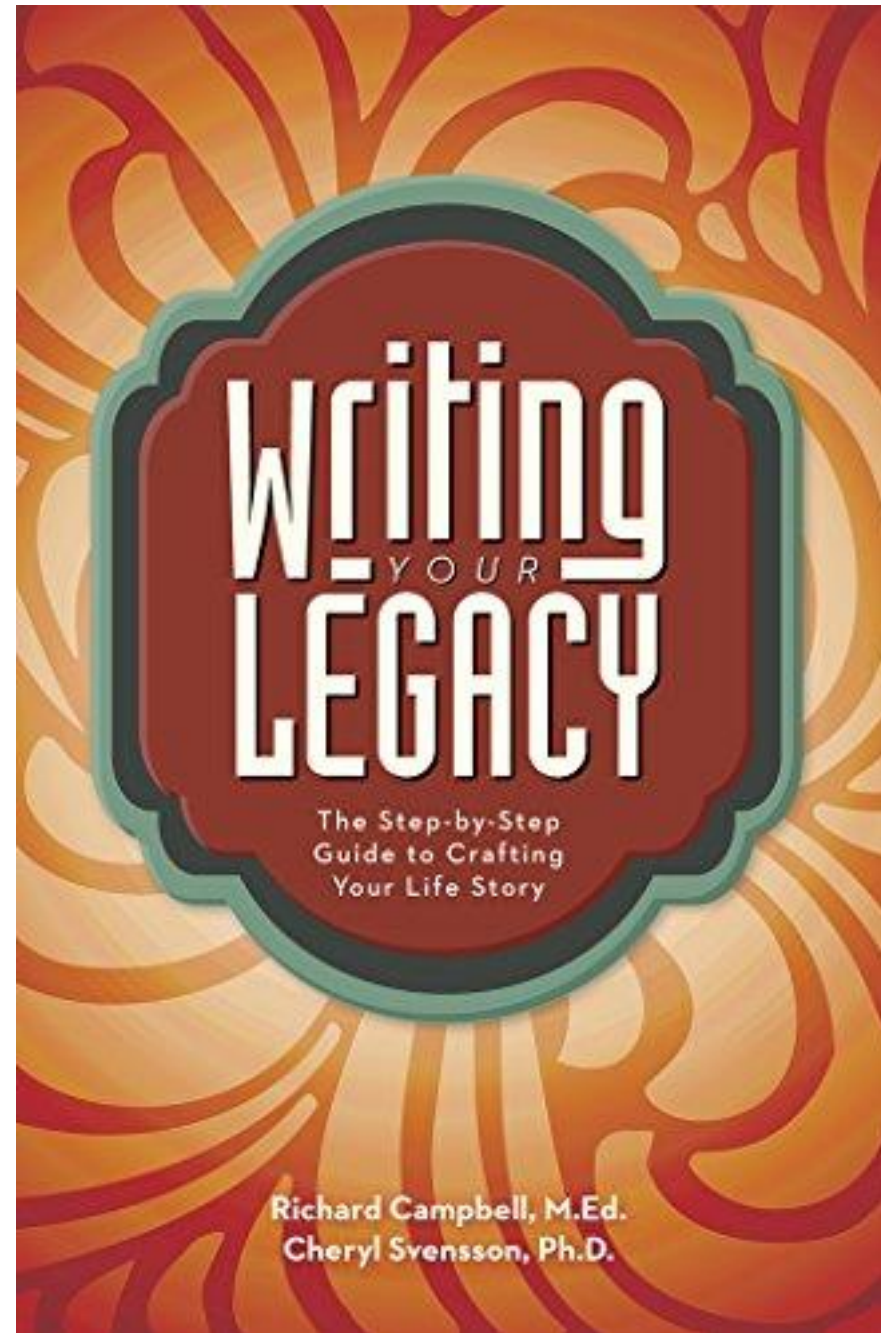
Intimidating – every life story doesn’t necessarily have a narrative arc.)

Memoir is an account of a *part* of your life.

Themes:

- Forks in the Road
- My Family, My Self
- The Meaning of Wealth
- My Life's Work
- Self-Image and Well-Being
- The Male-Female Equation
- The End of Life
- From Secular to Spirit

*(Manageable, less threatening.
Gives you a narrative arc.)*





Facebook Group Page (as private as you want it to be)

Hamilton Family Stories

Closed Group

About

Discussion

Members

Events

Photos

Manage Group

Search this group

Shortcuts

Ch6 Alum

Brushes: A Comedy ... 2

Former Lawrence Jour...

Shop Agnes & Dora ... 4

Wright/Laird Casting 4

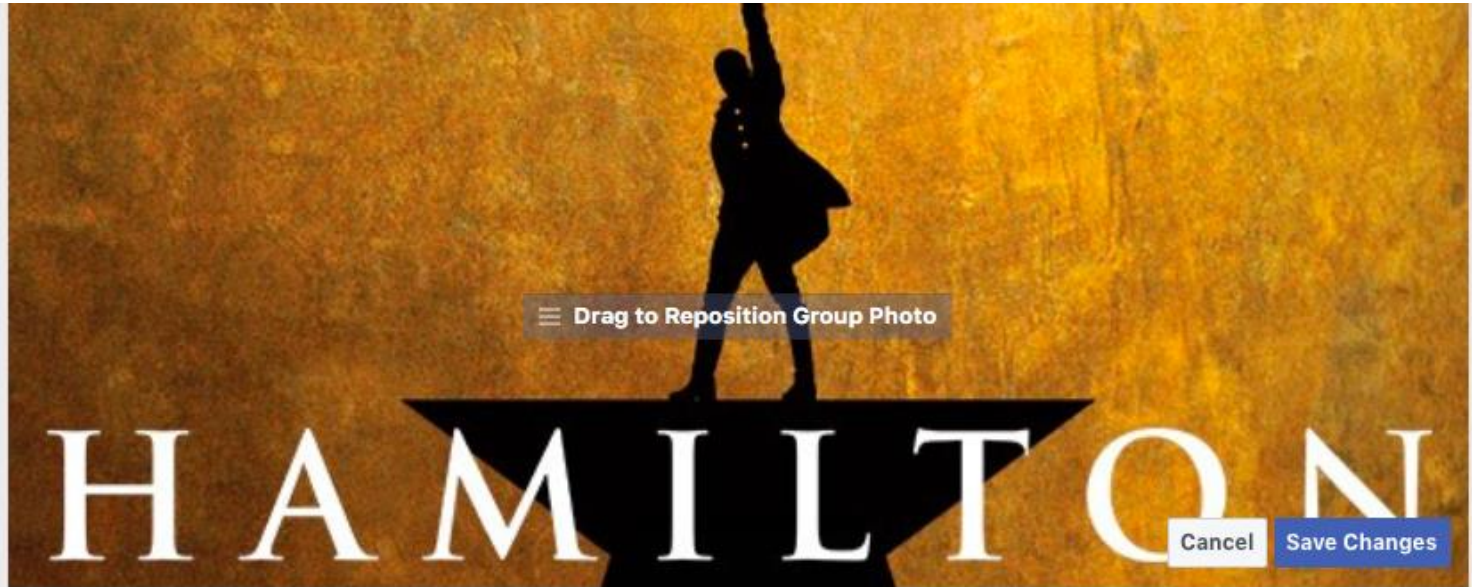
SHARING AND PA... 20+

Lawrence KS Buy, ... 20+

Lawrence Creates 4

The Official Playw... 20+

See more



Joined ▾

✓ Notifications

➦ Share

⋮ More



Write Post



Add Photo/Vid...



Live Video



More



Write something...



Photo/Video



Poll



Feeling/Acti...



Cathy Johnston Hamilton

Just now · Lawrence

Cathy Johnston Hamilton was born in Kansas City, MO on Dec. 9, 1955.

ADD MEMBERS

+ Enter name or email address...

MEMBERS

2 Members



You have 1 new member this week. Write a post to welcome them.

Write Post

SUGGESTED MEMBERS

Hide

Friends



Cynthia Bailey

Add Member



Ralph D. Gage Jr.

Add Member

Instagram (public or set to private)



Instagram

Search



boomergirluno

Edit Profile



209 posts

221 followers

234 following

Cathy Hamilton Working writer and family woman who can't remember to drink enough water on any given day.


cathyhamilton.com




POSTS

SAVED




Pinterest (public or private)

 Search


Home Explore  Cathy  

Cathy Hamilton




144 Followers 57 Following



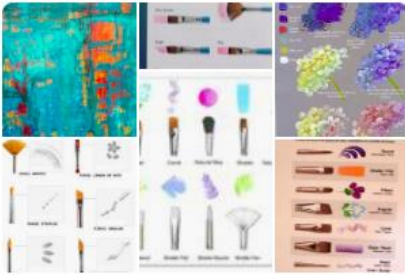
Boards Pins Tries




Create board















Memories
3 Pins





paint
43 Pins



Cook
44 Pins





Privacy

Life capsules or mini stories



Print
Video
Audio

Honing in: What kind of “books” (stories) are in your library?



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library burns to the ground.

African Proverb

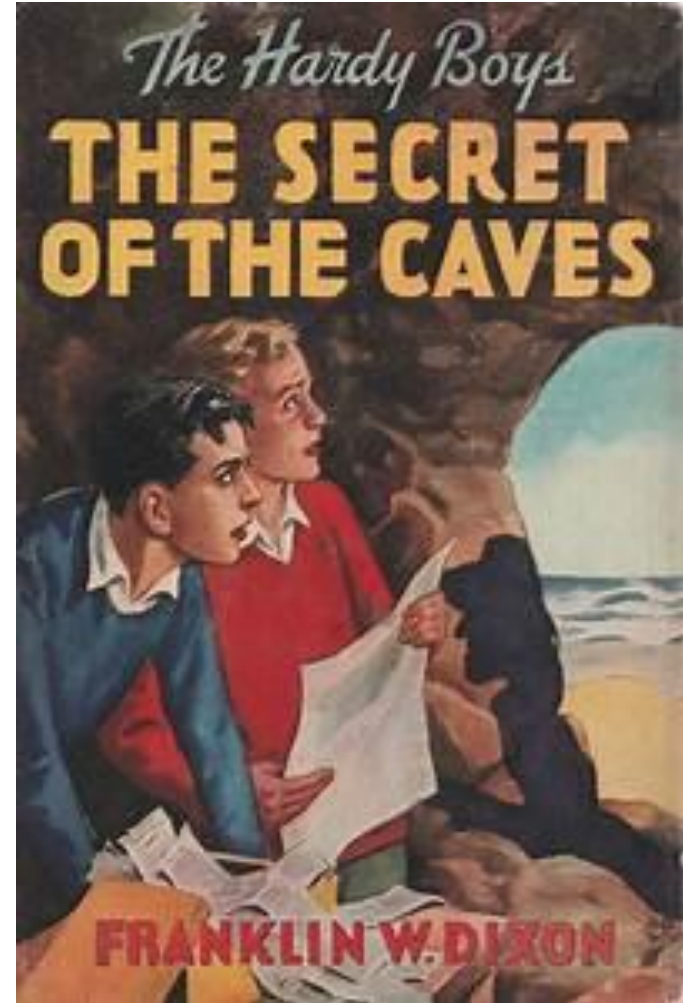
Consider the genres (not fiction.)
Pick your best stories.

Does your story have historical significance?

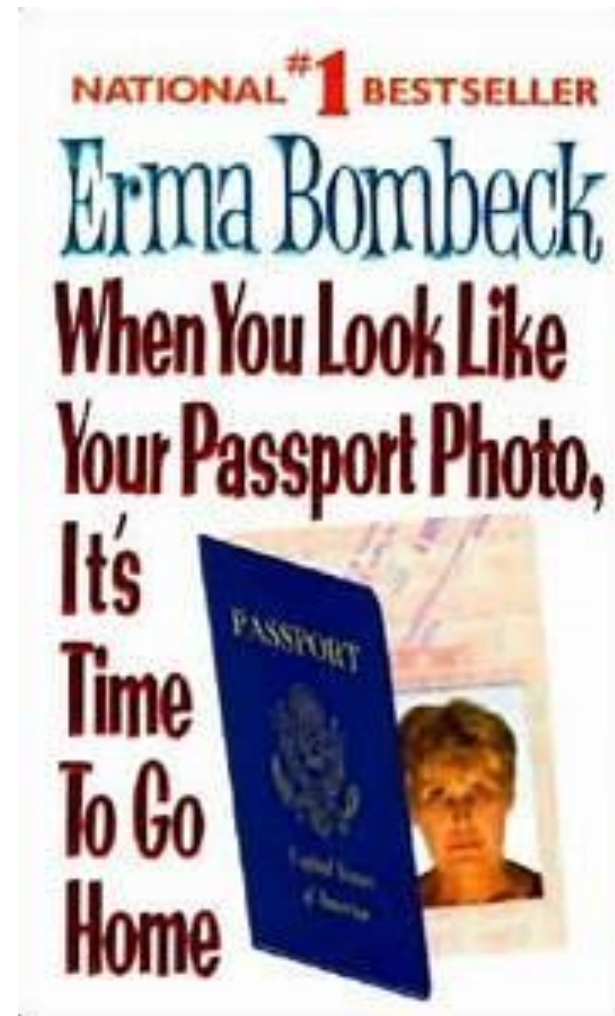
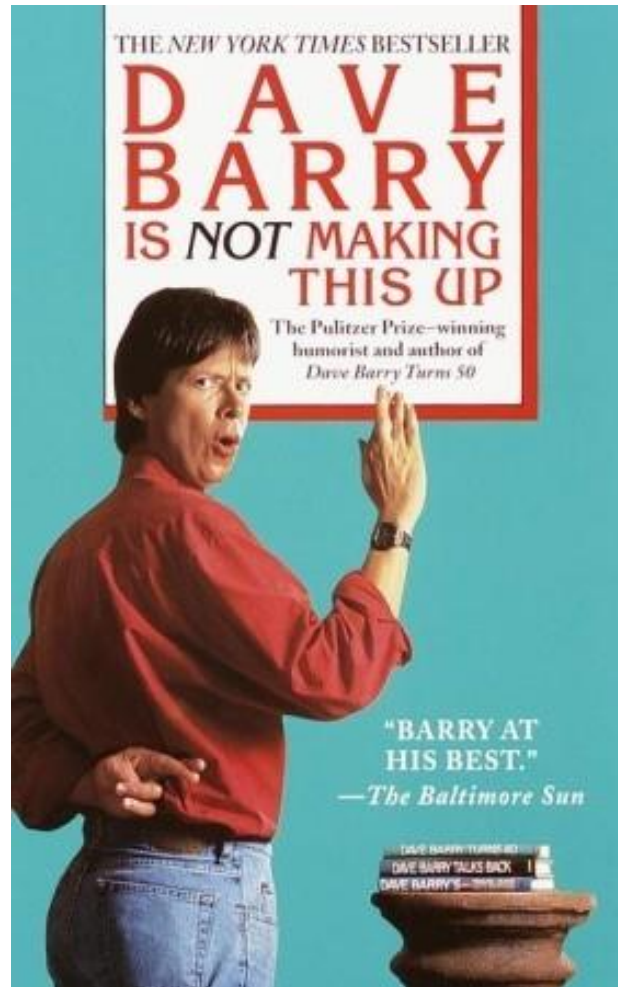


Were you *there* when it happened?

Is there a mystery in your past –
solved or unsolved?



Are there **humorous** or embarrassing stories that are part of your family lore?



And don't be afraid of **tragedy**.
There are always lessons to be
learned.



Leave no genre unexplored!

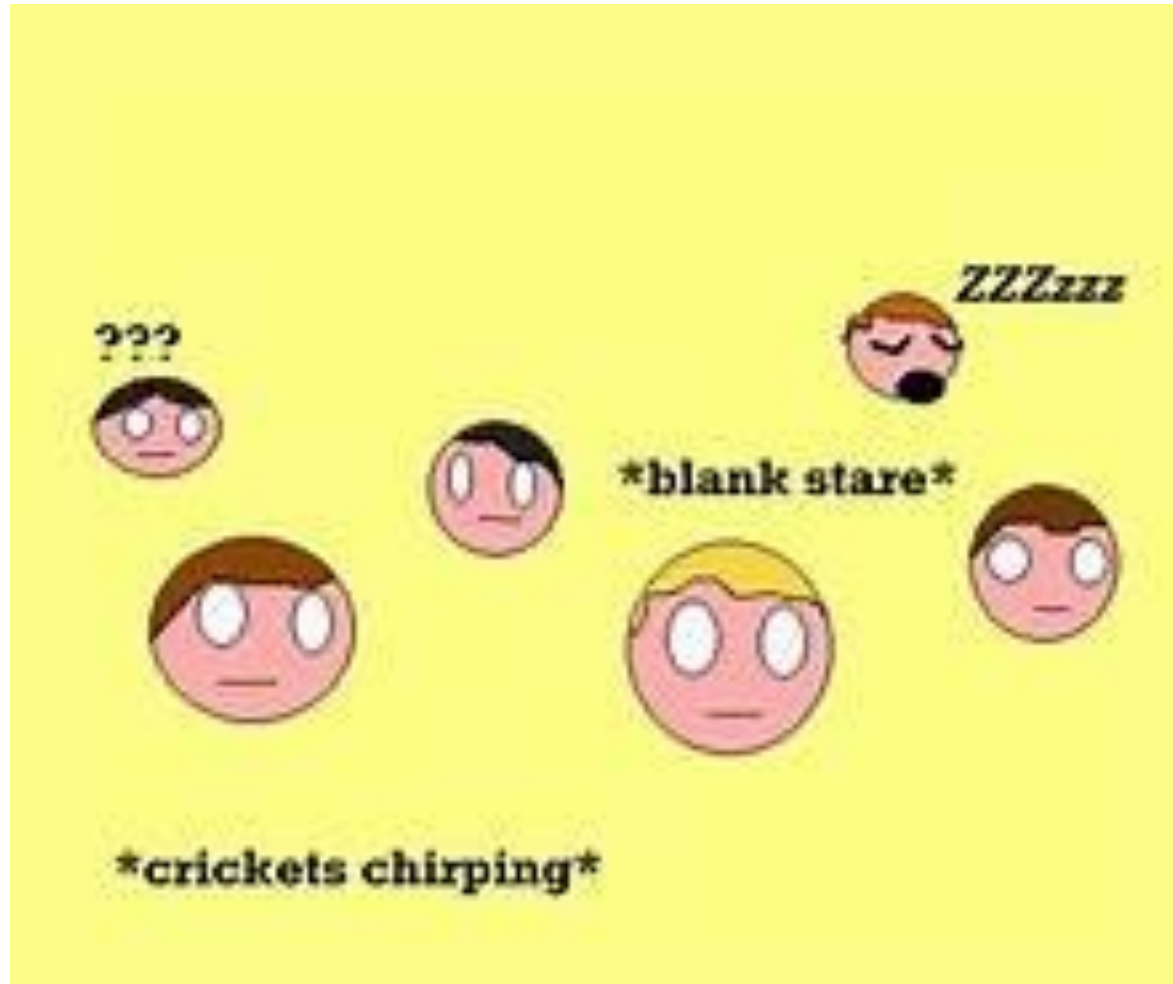




Tell us
something
we didn't
know!

- What would people be surprised to learn about you?
- Unexpected early career, brush with fame, act of heroism, hidden talent?

Say what *you* want to say while making it interesting for *your audience*.





**So many choices
So little time!**

How to decide....

- Ask “Is this how I want to be remembered?”
- Think but don’t overthink.
- Trust your gut.
- Ask family and friends.
- Identify your “classics.” (Did I ever tell you about the time...?)
- Pick one from childhood, midlife and old age.
- Consider this only a start and keep adding!

Interview options:

- Choose a family member or friend to interview you and record (print, video, audio)
- Interview yourself reading questions solicited from family/friends and record (ditto above)

OR

- Be interviewed by me in LPL's Sound + Vision Studio on Wednesday, Jan. 23 or Saturday, Jan. 26 (video or audio-only)
- Sign up today for time slot



Mabel Stoneback in LPL's Sound + Vision studio

Guidelines for i-view

- 20 minutes maximum
- Choose Video or Audio-only
- Topics provided by you (on take-home form)
- Questions and prompts provided by me

Optional:

- Question: “What does our library mean to you?”

Before You Check Out®

Pre-interview Worksheet *(Bring to recording session!)*

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Ask me about the time I.... (list your best story first)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Questions? email Cathy: legacy@lawrence.lib.ks.us



*Bring your
completed form to
the recording
session with you!*



Don't let your library burn to the ground.

LPL

~ Love

Find us online @ Beforeyoucheckout.org

[ABOUT](#)[WHY PLAN AHEAD?](#)[BLOG](#)[CLASSES](#)[MORE...](#)

Leave a Library Legacy.

Join our Facebook Group
Search:
Before You Check Out

