Genealogy Family Stories
Writing Group

What is the mission of the group?
Write a short story of an event in an ancestor’s life.
Help each other polish each other’s story

How often will the group meet?
Group will meet weekly (Thursdays noon – 2pm)
Starting March 8th

The last fall we heard from a couple of local writers and how they presented narrative stories of their research on ancestors and local people of interest. Recently we have heard from a couple of local authors on how they write stories from memories or researched documentation, selecting their words to give a readable, creative flair to their research.

I think that it’s one of the secret goals of most genealogists and family historians to write their ancestor's life story in such a manor that future generations will want to read and remember them instead of just putting the work on a shelf somewhere to collect dust.

Our ancestors were not just interesting people, they were amazing people! I have a grandmother, who at the age of 17, upon the death of both of her parents, took her 7 younger brothers and sisters 100 miles, on foot, to another town, in order to keep the family together. There’s a story! Can you picture them, poor, barefoot. Passing the baby between them. Hungry. Thirsty. And the preteens! You know there were disagreements. Big sister telling them to all "HUSH UP! STOP YOUR BELLY ACHING! WALK!"

I have another ancestor that, for some reason, left his family to marry and go off alone to Iowa territory! Now his bride, from what I can tell, was an young orphaned house servant. It appears her parents died when she was twelve and she went to live and work with a neighboring family. My 2xG Grandparents met when the family she was working for, traveled to West Virginia from Pennsylvania. His family was the family who founded the town, owned most of the businesses, including the doctor and church. I expect there is a wonderful story there! They finally ended up in Hillsdale OK.

That could be one story or it could be 10 + stories. One for each event. And that is up to the writer to decide.

But they won’t be my first stories. I have another ancestor in mind for my first stories. Who will be your first stories? Will it be one person or one era that your family lived through?

Let’s get together, Thursdays at noon – 2pm and let’s write and share our writing!

How to get started
Pick out a person, place or thing from your family tree.
These will be short stories.
I could write a page about my husband's great grandmother’s headstone! (thing) In ‘the’ Basset family (yes the furniture Bassets!) cemetery, though she was not any relation to any of the Bassets living or dead!
Pick out one person, place or thing – and see what you can write about it (try to write one page).
Bring that story and a picture if possible to the meeting.
Be prepared to read your story aloud to the group so that the group might share ideas on how to maybe add something or take something out to make the story even better! (Bring copies for listeners to write notes on, to return to you for you to take home. Your choice to make changes or not.)

What Can We Get Done?
There should be about 30 weeks to November. Writing only one story a week, that would be 30 stories! Add a picture or two for each story and it would be enough to fill a book before Christmas!