

Genealogy Rocks!

Writing Your Family History

Anyone, who has received a story about an ancestor handed down through several generations, knows the value of family history. Some of you may have received books that tell a complete family background of your ancestors.



Boyd Johnson

You hear about family stories that need to be written, so the knowledge can readily be handed down to your descendants. Now is the time to consider writing what you know about your ancestors.

An easy way to get started is to write about one person, whom you know facts that probably is not known by other people. Start with a simple narrative that will include photographs, descriptions of the person, your connection to that person, and what you know that others will find interesting or entertaining to read. I have used this technique to write a memorial document about a recently deceased

relative or friend. This technique will get you started, thus encouraging you to expand your writing with other ancestors.

Instead of limiting your writing to just vital records, I personally encourage you to integrate the person's occupation, hobbies, special interests, education, travels, and many other interesting topics of their life. Many people integrate social events during that person's lifetime.

My wife and I have written a book, *Write Now! Let Us Show You How*, that describes and illustrates eight methods in writing fun and exciting family chronicles. You can purchase our book at Larimer County Genealogical Society on their website: www.lcgsco.org.

❖ *Boyd Johnson is an author, speaker, and class instructor for our society besides retiring as an educator. Our next program will feature the Naturalization Process on becoming a citizen on April 19 at 6:30 pm in the Harmony Library community room. Visit our website (www.lcgsco.org) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lcgsco) for more details and other events.*