

# Writing Family History: A Gift for Generations to Come

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## Offering Helpful Feedback

1. This resonates with me:
2. I like . . . .
3. Questions:
4. Suggestions:

## A Memorable Family Member

1. List a few family members who evoke the most memories for you—memories that you'd like to share with your siblings, cousins, children, and/or grandchildren.
2. Choose one of these family members: \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did this person look like?
4. What roles did this person play in the family?
5. What are some words, phrases, or common expressions that you associate with this person?
6. What kinds of activities did you do with this person?
7. What did this person like to do most in life?
8. Where did you like to go with this person, or what did you like to do with this person?
9. What is the single most memorable event that you associate with this person?
10. What feelings come to mind when you think of this person?

## A Memorable Family Event

1. List a few family events that hold the most memories for you?
2. Choose one of these events: \_\_\_\_\_
3. When did this event occur?
4. Where did this event occur?
5. Who participated in this event?
6. How did you participate in this event? What was your role?
7. How have your thoughts about this event changed over time?
8. What is the significance of this event to you?
9. What is the significance of this event to other family members?

## A Memorable Family Place

1. List a few places that have the most family memories for you.
2. Choose one of these places: \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you see when you look around in this place?
4. What smells do you associate with this place?
5. What sounds do you associate with this place?
6. What family members come to mind when you think of this place?
7. What are some family activities or events that have occurred in this place?
8. What feelings do you associate with this place?
9. What is most memorable about this place for you?

## Biographical/Autobiographical Poem

Here's the form:

- Line 1: (First name)
- Line 2: (Several traits of this person)
- Line 3: (Relationship to someone else)
- Line 4: Who loves (several people or things)
- Line 5: Who feels
- Line 6: Who needs
- Line 7: Who fears
- Line 8: Who gives
- Line 9: Who would like to see
- Line 10: Resident of
- Line 11: (Last name)

Here's an example:

Doris,  
 Norwegian, Swedish, Dutch, and English in her ancestry;  
 Daughter of Walter and Lucille (Bystrom) Bennett, wife of Harley;  
 Who loved spending time in the country, cooking for a threshing crew, and walking for hours;  
 Who felt happiest when she was talking with friends and family;  
 Who needed a cure for a disease that robs far too many minds;  
 Who feared snakes and swimming holes;  
 Who freely gave her time to children with special needs;  
 Who wanted to see an end to suffering and pain in the world;  
 Lifelong resident of Pierce and St. Croix counties in Wisconsin;  
 Roen.