Writing a Family History

(Do as I say, not as I do!!!!)
I will be posting this on the website so all of the links will be there
http://sierravistagenie.wordpress.com/
Who?

• Look at your research.
• Who interests you the most?
• Whose story do you know?
How?

- “The Complete Guide to the Family History Writing Challenge”
  - [http://genealogy.about.com/od/writing_family_history/a/write.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/writing_family_history/a/write.htm)
What format do you use?

• Genealogy VS Story
  – From Lynn Palermo, *Getting Ready to Write*
  – “Genealogies are records of a family lineage. They deliver to us information about a specific person or family. Stories provide an experience. “
  
  Read other family history narratives. There are many that are good enough to be published.
Examples of Family History Narratives

• *Oh Beautiful* by John Paul Godges
• *My Wild Irish Rose* by Sharon Carmack
• *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls
• *Three Slovak Women* by Lisa A. Alzo
Examples of Life Stories

• *Angela’s Ashes* by Frank McCourt

• *Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

• *The Stove Pipe* by Bonnie Virag

• *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup
Examples of Family History Memoir

• *Reunion: A Search for Ancestors* by Ryan Littrell

• *A Home Called Your Own: A Journey Across Six Generations* by Steve Hanna

• *Annie’s Ghosts: A Journey Into A Family Secret* by Steve Luxenberg
Examples of Diaries and Letters

- A Voyage Across the Americas - The Journey of Henri de Buren by Jean-Francois de Buren

- A Midwife’s Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812 by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich.

- World War II London Blitz Diary by Ruby Alice Thompson Edited by Victoria Aldridge Washuk.

- Covered Wagon Women, Volume 1: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails, 1840-1849 by Kenneth L. Holmes and Anne M. Butler.
Examples of Fiction Based on a True Story

• Roots by Alex Haley (based on his family history)
• Elizabeth Street by Laurie Fabiano (based on life of her great-grandmother)

  The Shoemaker’s Wife by Adrianna Trigiani (based on author’s family history)

• The Paris Wife by Paula McLain (based on marriage of Ernest Hemingway and Hadley Richardson)
Examples of Personal Essays

- *The Riddle Song and Other Rememberings* by Rebecca McClanahan (This book is a collection of essays about various relatives in the author’s family.)
- *Switched at Midlife* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, published online at http://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/2012/01/switched-at-midlife-by-sharon-carmack/
- *The Urban Jungle* by Linda Gartz, published online at http://www.roseandthornjournal.com/Fall_2012_Prose_5.html.
Blogs

• http://rowansheffler.wordpress.com/

• http://beardenwoost.wordpress.com/