

The Drugstore Philosopher - Telling my Father's Story

Writers' League of the Villages

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Phil Goldsmith

(703) 370-0449 / philgoldsmith@outlook.com

Genealogical Writing - Who's your subject? / What's your objective?

To tell the story of a family

To tell the story of a person

In depth or focused on an event/era/time span

Who's your audience?

Yourself

Family

Local history reference

What's the style?

Genealogical Descendent Report

Personal style

For my book:

Objective

To tell the story of my father's *professional and creative life*

Not so much to tell his *personal and family* history

Can't entirely separate the two

Audience

Family and friends

Gave copy to

My sons

My eight first cousins

A few close friends

Put aside a copy for each of my grandchildren

Printing more to put away for *their* (future) children.

Writing and publishing process

Sorting the resource material

Find a space and make piles

Sort, resort and resort again

Decide what's needed to keep - Not everything is!

Creating an outline/structure

Broke the book into "Chapters" based on the type of writing (then into roughly chronological order.)

Needed a biographical chapter (*who he was*) to put his writing (*what he did*) into context.

Also wanted

Dedication

Table of Contents

Introduction

Acknowledgements

Two special sections

2 page timeline of his life

Boston Globe Sunday Magazine article (6 pages)

Selecting/scanning the content

Lyrics, etc.

Could only accommodate a representative selection

Most took a full page (and so, selected a “portrait” format book)

Maintain readability

Scanned each item individually, naming files consistently

Edited each lightly in Photoshop to clean them up

Photos

Focused on photos of Maury in his “creative” endeavors

Photos of family life reserved for that chapter, and just enough to set the stage.

Photos scanned, many needed extensive Photoshopping to restore and enhance

Writing the text

Expository style – explain/inform/describe

Primarily in the third person

Primary font:

American Typewriter, a monospaced font, is an homage to Maury’s decades of pounding away on Remington manual typewriters.

Creating the book

I used Blurb, which is photo-oriented (Far superior to Snapfish/Shutterfly, etc.)

For text-heavy books

Lulu

Amazon/CreateSpace

Editing

Use multiple editors

My team:

Cousin Don – journalist and published history author, interested in family history

Friend Beth – knew Maury pretty well, but independent view from the family

“Genealogy muse” Missy – brought genealogist's perspective

PS: You don’t have to listen to them!

Printing and Distribution

How many copies?

E-book vs paper

Hard-cover vs paperback

Give a copy to local or genealogical libraries