

Family Legacy Book

Getting together for a family reunion? Gathering for the holidays? Hanging out on a family Zoom or Skype call? Each of these scenarios is a fabulous time to discuss creating a family legacy book.

- Who are the historians and genealogists in your family? They are likely the ones who will be excited about the project.

Do you want a PDF or a physical book? How will the fees for editing, layout, printing, and shipping be shared?

- What do you want on the cover? A photo and text or only text?
- Do you want a hard or soft-cover book?

You will need a Coordinator to keep track of writing assignments, deadlines, etc.

Begin with your family tree. Decide on the starting ancestor.

- How far back do you want to go?
- How wide do you want the descendant tree to extend?
- Of course, people alive today can write about themselves!

Decide on a deadline to receive articles. Allow for some flexibility but you don't necessarily need to share that flexibility unless it becomes necessary to extend the deadline.

Consider making an Excel spreadsheet or a shared Google Spreadsheet to match and track ancestor and his/her descendants and match each to the family member who will contribute to the writing (in some cases they may be interviewing and transcribing too). The spreadsheet might include:

- Ancestor/Descendant
- DOB (in case you have people with similar names)
- Writer/Transcriber/Interviewer
- Contact Date
- Follow-Up
- Article Received
- Photos Received
- Contact Email
- Contact Phone
- Notes



Email or send letters to potential participants aka the writers. You are welcome to adjust these:

Sample Email/Letter #1

Hi!

I am thrilled to coordinate the _____ Family History Book Project that will begin with _____, born _____ and his/her descendants.

Here's how you can be a part of this legacy book:

We'd like to include at least a 2-page spread about each descendant with appropriate photos. Articles can be 500 to 2500 words long and include life highlights, curious facts, personal memories, as well as full name, dates and place of birth (and death).

I hope you'll spend a few hours of your precious, valuable time to add to the success of this project by writing up what you know or can research about _____.

Important! Please include an article about yourself and a couple of photos!

All photographs should be scanned and emailed at a resolution of at least 300 ppi or you can mail them to me to be photographed.

Attached is a list of descendants who also need their story written. If I have accidentally missed a descendant that you think should be included, please let me know!

Our deadline for the articles and photographs is _____.

What happens after all the articles are received?

1. The stories will be professionally edited for grammar.
2. Articles and photographs will be laid out and a hard cover book will be printed.
3. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

If you know of other family members who may want to assist with this project, please pass this letter/email along and share their contact information with me.

If you have questions or want to write about more than one descendant, please let me know so we don't duplicate any work.

Best regards,

Sample Email/Letter Gentle Reminder #1 – a month before the deadline

Hello

I am grateful you are a part of the _____ legacy book.

Gentle reminder! The ___DATE___ deadline is approaching to get your story(ies) and photograph(s) about _____.

There's no bonus for early submissions except the big smile you'll bring to my face.

Thanks ahead of time for your hard work. I know we all look forward to holding this book in our hands.

Best regards,

Sample Email/Letter Gentle Reminder #2 – 2 weeks before the deadline

Hey there!

It's almost that time. The deadline for the legacy book project is in a mere 2 weeks!

Thank you.

Best regards,

Sample Email/Letter - Thanks for meeting the deadline

Hi!

You are responsible for the big grin on my face.

Congratulations and thank you for meeting the _____ legacy book project story deadline.

I'll be in touch again once I know a print date.

Best regards,

Sample Email/Letter – Beyond deadline

Hello.

I know you are busy but I'm still in need of your story for the _____ legacy book project.

Will you be finished with it in the next week? Let me know if you need help.

Best regards,

Sample Email/Letter – Finished Project

Hey there!

We did it! The _____ legacy book is finished!

I have attached the PFD.

I will order copies in bulk on ___DATE___ so we save money. Please let me know how many books you want, and I'll let you know the cost and estimated shipping.

Alternately, you may order copies of the book via this link:

We all deserve a pat on the back for our efforts.

Best regards,



I would be honored to help develop your legacy book project!
Please feel free to contact me:

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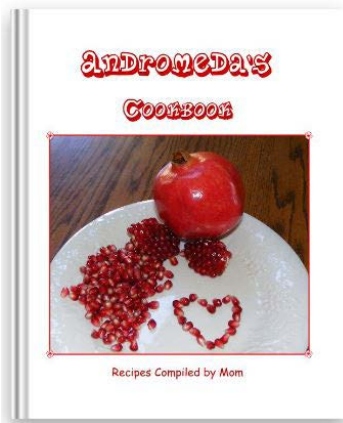


Your Bespoke Cookbook

If browsing through cookbooks brings you pleasure, then this is a project to consider!

Q: Just what is a Bespoke Cookbook?

A: One created especially for you, a special person, or group.



A bespoke cookbook is a labor of love, like the lemon meringue pie grandma made, the spaghetti dad made each Sunday, the salad recipe you've increased the tastiness of over the years. Each recipe has a story behind it, and both matter to you and the people who will read it.

Do you have hand-written recipe cards from you mom or grandma? Fantastic! You could even pre-serve history (handwriting) by including photos of the cards.

In the 1980s, cookbooks compiled by organizations and churches as fundraisers were popular. Some were fancy, but more often they were homey. The fancy ones included a few pictures. The homey might have had graphics. Similar to foodie blog posts, a bespoke cookbook includes a backstory with the recipe.

Are you like me? I like to see the food plated, the casserole bubbling in a dish, the bread with butter melting on it, the charcuterie board in all its glory.

My mom made me a quilt with blocks designed by my friends. I don't quilt, but I took the idea, and I made a cookbook for my daughter when she was in high school. It included:

- A picture of the recipe (sometimes - I admit I was a bit lazy and did not include pics for each one).
- A picture of the person or family who contributed the recipe. (My favorite is a cute pic of Andi's great grandmother in a bikini laying on a picnic blanket at the beach.)
- A sentence or three about the recipe and a paragraph or so about the contributor(s).
- Holiday memories of the gatherings and the food we ate.
- I wrote about Bianca, a friend whose tradition it was to bring food, often fruit, any time she visited.
- I wrote about Marion, who ALWAYS set a pretty table.
- The poem my Popa wrote about the tree in our yard, the one my mom picked lemons from for her pie.
- A photo of the family at Yellowstone National Park with a recipe for a salad I'd enjoyed at one of the hotels.
- Ann's handwritten recipe, just as it was, because her writing is so lovely.
- A stew recipe Lynn has been making so long she wrote it down as more of a letter than a list of ingredients and instructions.
- A few lined pages so my daughter could add her own recipes.
- Quotes about food by famous people.



These are just ideas. I hope they have sparked your own!

If you would like me to bring your cookbook to life, I am happy to assist!

Wishing you a delicious meal,

Carol

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