

Life History Books



WELCOME PACKET: TRIBUTE BOOK

We're thrilled to embark on the Tribute Book-writing process with you. We promise to respect the cherished memories you share with us as we create a beautiful book of your loved one's life. In this Welcome Packet, you'll find all the information you need to get started as you prepare to tell your story.



At the end of this document you will find a list of questions we aim to cover during the interviews. It may help to jot down your ideas as you begin to think about what you would like to include in your Tribute Book.

We will only talk about subjects of your choosing, and we may veer away from the list as the interview progresses and topics come up that deserve more questioning. If there are topics we haven't touched on in the question list, there will be plenty of time to focus on your specific interests. Similarly, if the interviewer asks a question you'd rather not answer, simply say, "Pass."

This is your book, and you choose what you would like to cover. Please don't be nervous about the interview process, it's really just a relaxed, fun opportunity to talk about all of your favorite topics and tell your story.

Each book is fully customizable. The cover, the font within the book, any colors that crop up within the book – absolutely everything is personalized to your tastes, preferences, and individual style.

However, some clients prefer to pass those choices onto us. If you would rather we handle color/font specifics, please email Corina@LifeHistoryBooks.com or call 424.253.5429 and we will design a scheme just for you. **In this case, fill in the blanks on page 2 of the Welcome Packet, then skip to the list of Questions to Review on page 6.**

1. PHOTOS

If You Do Not Have Photos & Memorabilia to Include

If you do not have access to photographs and other memorabilia, that is perfectly fine, and your book will be gorgeous without them. As a replacement, we will pull out quotes and place them in frames. We will also use borders and other graphics to make the pages lovely and colorful.

You may want to hand write a short, personal note or favorite quote or poem, which can be included digitally in the book. It appears just as a photo, but adds a lovely personal touch.

If you would like any recipes included, please have hard copies ready on the day of your interview or email them to your personal historian.

If You Have Photos & Memorabilia to Include

If you are including photographs and mementos, please collect them. Think about the captions (words explaining each photo). You can write in whatever style you like, and include whatever information you prefer. Here are some samples of caption styles:

Jane Doe, Age 4, Virginia
Jane at 4 years old, Virginia, 1955
Cousin Jane, Virginia, circa 1955. We always played around that tree!

Please mark the back of each photo with a number and write captions that correspond to each photo's number on a separate sheet of paper. If you would like to include any other mementos, please write captions for them, as well, clearly referring to the object you are describing. We have included birth certificates, poems and newspaper clippings. You may want to hand write a short, personal note, which can be included digitally in the book. It appears just as a photo, but adds a lovely personal touch.

If you would like any recipes included, please have hard copies ready on the day of your interview or email them to your personal historian.

2. DEDICATION

Just inside the book there can be a dedication page for you to leave a message to your loved ones. When you decide on your dedication, please write it here (it may be changed later, if you so desire):

3. TITLE

A title incorporating a name and/or a saying may be printed along the book's external binding. Some examples: "A Kind Soul: John Doe," "Always with a Smile: John Doe," or simply "John Doe." When you decide on your title, please write it here (it may be changed later, if you so desire):

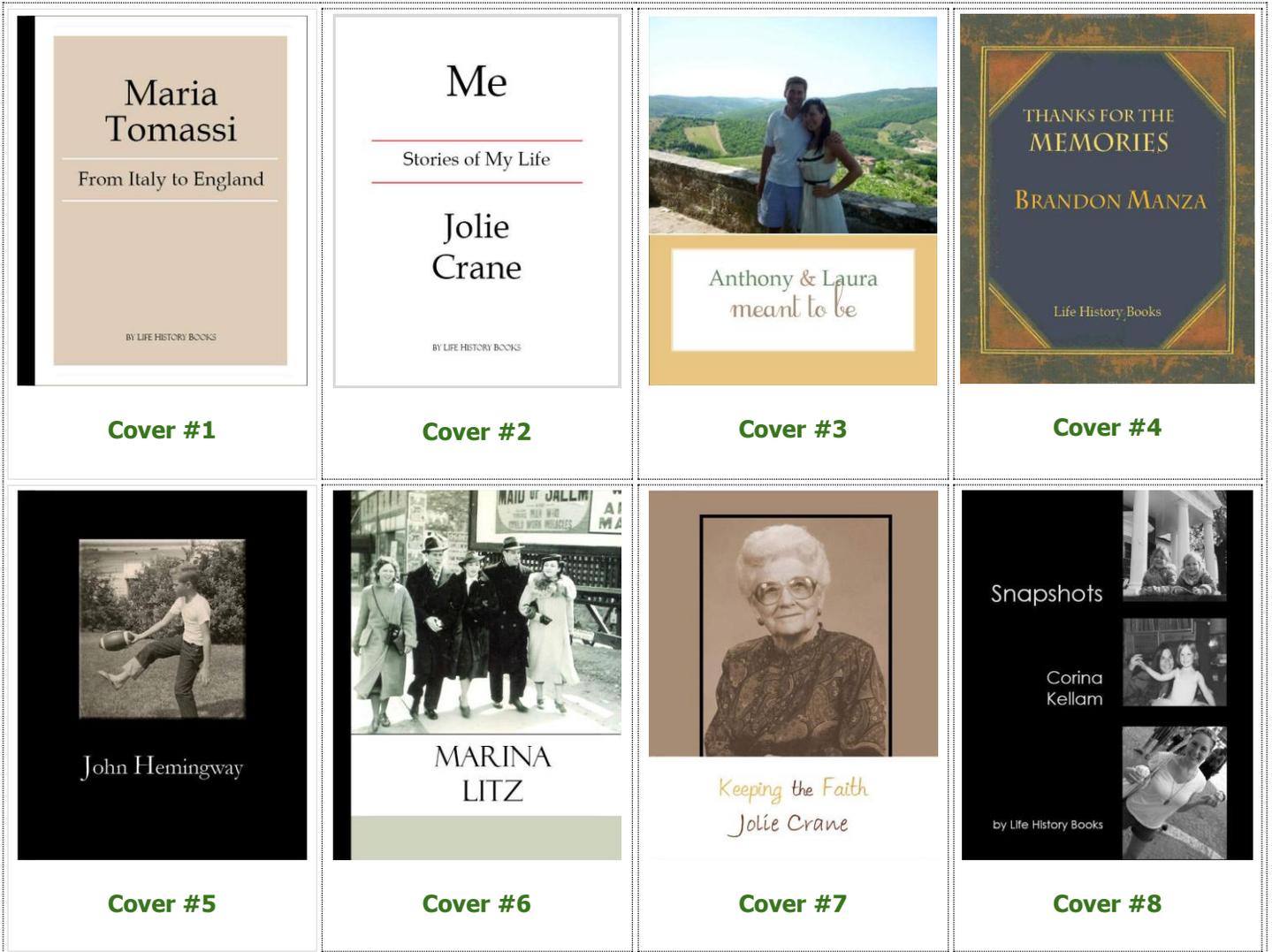
4. COVER

If you have a cover in mind, we're happy to design one from scratch, but if you like any of these sample covers, please indicate which numbers appeal to you. Of course, your own photos will be used and all fonts/colors can be customized to suit your preferences, just pick the general styles you like best.

If you like two sample covers, we will customize both for you and let you choose your favorite.

First choice is Cover # _____

Second choice is Cover # _____



5. FONT SIZE

Captions and the body text will be done in size 10 font (which is the size of this text) unless you would prefer a larger font size.

If you want the body text in a larger font (size 11, seen here) please write YES here _____.

If you want the body text in a much larger font (size 12, seen here) please write YES here _____.

6. FONTS

You can select up to three fonts for different uses. One will be used for your name, on the first page. Another will be the body text, which should be extremely easy for you to read, as it is the most prevalent. You can choose another font for captions. We can also use an italics version of the fonts you see below for captions... that looks very nice.

This font is called Aline Kienberg. 1234567890

This font is called Architect. 1234567890

This font is called Arial.

This font is called Book Antiqua. 1234567890

This font is called Century Gothic. 1234567890

This font is called Cooper. 1234567890

This font is called Courier New. 1234567890

This font is called Curlz. 1234567890

This font is called Cursif. 1234567890

This font is called Edwardian Script. 1234567890

This font is called Eraser Dust. 1234567890

THIS FONT IS CALLED FELIX TITLING. 1234567890

This font is called Franklin Gothic Heavy. 1234567890

This font is called Garamond. 1234567890

This font is called Kristen ITC. 1234567890

This font is called Monotype Corsiva. 1234567890

This font is called Papyrus. 1234567890

FONT FOR THE NAME (ON THE FIRST PAGE)

Name Font _____

FONT FOR BODY TEXT (THIS SHOULD BE EASY TO READ)

Body Text Font _____

FONT FOR CAPTIONS

Caption Font _____

7. COLORS

There will be opportunities to include color throughout the book. Use color codes below (i.e. P9, B17).

Colors you like: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Colors you dislike: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____



8. PHOTO RETOUCHING

We can Photoshop your personal photos to appear dramatically different. Would you like us to do so?

_____ No, I want my photos in their natural state.



_____ Yes, retouch my photos to appear black & white.



_____ Yes, retouch my photos to appear sepia.



_____ Yes, retouch my photos to appear pastel.



QUESTIONS TO REVIEW BEFORE THE FIRST INTERVIEW

If you'd like a family tree and/or timeline of major events included, please sketch it out on one or two sheets of paper. We will scan in your sketch and turn it into a lovely family tree graphic.

Remember, the following questions are meant only as a guide to get you thinking about the stories you wish to tell. You are neither confined to these questions alone, nor should you worry if some of the answers may have slipped your mind, or if that part of the person's life you are honouring is not your focus. You may speak in a freestyle way if you want to record something specific, or you may be prompted by your personal historian with the following questions.

Questions are in present tense, but Tribute Books may be done on loved ones who have passed. Most Tribute Books are a collection of our client's favorite memories with a loved one, but these specific questions are listed to help jog our client's memory. Family background is usually especially hazy, so often that section is not discussed at all.

Most of our Tribute Books are for family members, so if this is a book for a colleague, most of these questions will not apply and your personal historian will interview you appropriately.

Family Background

Please tell me what you know about your loved one's family history, as far back as you know.

Do you know any stories about how your loved one's family first came to the U.S.? Where did they first settle? How did they make a living? Do you know where that family name came from? Are there stories about its history or origins?

What stories do you know about your loved one's parents and grandparents? What were their personalities? Where did they grow up, and how did they meet? Do you know stories from their youth? Were they religious or political? What were the controlling factors in their lives? What were their interests? Were your loved one's parents strict, or was it a more relaxed household? What do you think their main goals were as parents?

What other relatives do you know stories about? Was your loved one particularly fond of any family members?

Your Loved One's Life Experiences

Where and when was your loved one born? Do you know if the childbirth was easy or difficult or any stories from it? Do you know why your loved one's name was picked? Do you know any stories about when your loved one was a baby?

Does your loved one have any siblings? What was the relationship with them, and how did it change over the years? Any specific memories involving your loved one's siblings that you'd like to share?

How did your loved one feel about education when they were young, and did that change?

Do you know what aspirations your loved one had for the future? What did he/she want to be as an adult?

What was the house like that he/she grew up in? Describe the town/area where your loved one grew up. What was it like? How has it changed over the years?

What are some childhood memories you remember your loved one telling you? What were some of the benchmark events of your loved one's childhood?

What are some memories you have of your entire family together?

If your loved one experienced world events like wars, Kennedy being assassinated, schools being integrated, etc. before you met, do you know how your loved one felt about those experiences? Do you remember he/she telling those stories?

What family heirlooms or keepsakes and mementos belong to your loved one? Why are they valuable to him/her? What is their history? How were they handed down? Are there any memories or stories connected with them?

Your Experiences with Your Loved One

Do you have any nicknames for your loved one? If so, how did they come about?

What is your relationship and if you were not born into the same family, how did you meet?

What are some memories that you have with your loved one? What were some great days together?

What are some funny memories you recall with your loved one?

Did your loved one serve in the military? Do you know any details about that?

Do you celebrate specific holidays together? What holidays are the most important to you? Are there special traditions, customs, songs, foods?

What special food-based traditions do you two have? Had any recipes been preserved and passed down in your family from generation to generation? Did your loved one like to cook?

Does your loved one drink alcohol? Is there a favorite drink?

What are some of the benchmark events of your loved one's adult life?

Does your loved one speak any other languages? Ever tried to learn any?

What places have been most important to your loved one and why? What stories and memories come to mind?

Did your loved one ever travel? Did he/she have any favorite destinations or vacation spots?

What kinds of special recognition did your loved one receive at work, or for a hobby or particular interest?

Is he/she active in any religious organizations or community groups?

Did he/she finish high school or go to college? If so, tell me about the experience there.

Did your loved one have any serious romantic relationships? Would you like to talk about them?

If your loved one was ever married, how did they meet, what was the early relationship like and was there a proposal? What did he/she find surprising about marriage? What did he/she enjoy, what did he/she find difficult? Did your loved one ever give marital advice?

Does your loved one have any children?

IF NO: Did he/she ever want children?

IF YES: What are their names, and when were they born? How were the names picked?

How were the pregnancies/births?

What was each like as a child? How did each change as he/she got older?

Was raising children as expected? What surprised your loved one most about being a parent?

Did your loved one raise the child(ren) with a partner? If so, was he/she given a lot of support and help?

Has your loved one generally enjoyed good health throughout your life? If not, what problems were there?

Does your loved one have political opinions you'd like to share – are there any leaders or figureheads he/she admired?

What community traditions does your loved one celebrate? What is the involvement and why does he/she participate.

How did historical events affect you and your loved one? For example, what were your experiences during September 11 or Hurricane Katrina (if you live in New Orleans)?

Is music very important to your loved one? What bands/musicians has he/she enjoyed through the years? Has she ever played music or sang?

Let's talk about your loved one's professional career, if he/she had one. What jobs did he/she have, and how did he/she feel about the major ones? Did the job generally play a large part in life?

Would you like to talk about any friends your loved one was especially close to?

Does your loved one have any favorite movie stars? Any favorite movies? Books?

What pets has your loved one had, and what role have pets played in life?

Does your loved one like sports? If so, what kind, and which teams? What role did sport play in life?

If your loved one has children or grandchildren, what are his/her favorite traits in each? What are your loved one's hopes for their future?

Do you think who your loved one is, at the core, has changed much in the last 10 years? Have values changed much? Interests? Priorities?

What is your loved one's favorite place in the entire world? It could be at home, in the woods, or some nook in a foreign land.

Has your loved one had any role models or mentors?

When you think of your loved one, what are his/her characteristics that you love the most?

Did your loved one ever mention anything he/she wish he/she knew, appreciated or understood in younger years?

If you could live one day over again with your loved one, without changing anything, what would it be?

YOU ARE READY TO BEGIN!

You are now completely ready to begin your interviews. If you are already working with a personal historian, please schedule your first interview. To get started with Life History Books, or if you have any questions, feel free to email Corina@LifeHistoryBooks.com or call Corina Kellam at 424.253.5429.