



ALWAYS ON THE SQUARE!

WILLIAMSBURG

1857 • SESQUICENTENNIAL • 2007

Tips for writing family histories

The Williamsburg Sesquicentennial Committee is currently accepting Williamsburg family histories for its history book.

Forms are available at the sesquicentennial office along Industrial Park Road, at the Williamsburg Journal Tribune office and on the Web site at www.williamsburg150years.com.

The following tips may help you in writing your histories. For more information, see the form, or contact Callie Wetjen, history book editor, at calliewetjen@williamsburg150years.com or (319) 668-1240.

INCLUDE POINTS OF INTEREST

- Family business or occupation.
- Then and now photos of the founding parents of the family – Could be a wedding photo and a wedding anniversary photo.
- Schooling – rural schools, elementary and secondary, post-secondary.
- Military history – war decorations, awards and honors.
- Interesting and unusual family facts and stories.
- Country of origin history, if known – Did your family come from a particular county in Ireland? What year? Did they have a particular occupation or reason for coming to America?
- Hobbies and interests, community service, key organizations and church memberships.

IDENTITY THEFTS

Due to the growing number of identity thefts from family histories published in books and on the Internet, you might consider:

- Listing only the birth year (1904) and year of death (1983) of a family member, rather than the full

date (ex. Jan. 30, 1904 to Aug. 27, 1983).

- Not including specific addresses, just the distance or direction outside of the city limits (The family farm was located five miles northwest of Williamsburg) or just the street name (Since 1936, our family has lived in the same house on Elm St.)

HISTORY SHOULD FLOW LOGICALLY

When listing family members, do so logically. Determine with whom your family history will start, followed by each generation, ending with the current generation.

IDENTIFY EACH PHOTO

Remember to identify each person in every photo. To stay consistent with the rest of the book, identify from left to right and from front to back. (ex. *Front row, from left to right, are Second row, from left to right, are*)



Examples of family histories, like the one above, are available to view at www.williamsburg150years.com