

# Genealogy Writers Workshop #1

“Where do I start?”

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# Who is your audience?

- Your immediate family?
- Your extended family?
- A special interest group? (Veterans)
- Adults
- Young Adults?
- Children?





# What Type of Publication?

- **Book:** hard bound, spiral, paperback, pamphlet
- **E-Book** to be read on a tablet
- **Website** (Copyright issues can surface on documents. See Bob Ringo's information on Digitization.) <https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/create-family-history-website/>
- **Charts:** You may want to start here first.
- **Family History Calendars with commentary**
- **Blogs:** <https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/how-to-start-genealogy-blog/>
- **Read examples of types of family history writing:** <https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/writing/writing-family-history-books/>





# Where do you write?

- Where to write: Find a spot in your home where you can spread out and work undisturbed. Make sure your documents are close by, organized, protected, and if digitized, backed up on a separate hard drive and in the Cloud.





# Why are you writing?

- **Memoir and Autobiography:** <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/memoir-vs-autobiography/>
- **To preserve documents and memories of immediate family and/or extended family.**  
<https://www.thewritersforhire.com/10-reasons-to-write-a-family-history-book/>
- **Explore your heritage:** <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/what-is-heritage>
- **Focus on social history of time and place.**  
<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/what-is-social-history>
- **Other Considerations:** <https://selecthealth.org/blog/2019/08/5-benefits-of-knowing-your-family-history>





# How to Get Started

- **9 Tips on How to Start a Family History:** <https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/tips-getting-started-writing-family-history/>
- **Keep It Simple:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvoshRhzVcU>
- **What to Consider Including:** <https://legacybooks.com/26-things-to-include-in-a-family-history-book-beyond-photos-and-text/>





# Ida Caputi McCarthy

- Ida Mary Caputi was born on January 27, 1925 to Italian immigrants Paul and Cecelia Caputi in West New York, New Jersey. It was a close knit Italian neighborhood where everyone knew everyone else. Ida had six older brothers and one older sister. It was a close family where the brothers looked out for her and each other. She was an adventurous child who enjoyed sewing and playing stick ball. After she graduated from high school, she and her sister Kay went to work in the garment district of New York.





- Rules for Positive Critiques - three positives to one negative.
- Be informative, concise, positive.
- “Sentence structure is the same. Maybe more variation will keep the reader’s attention longer.”
- OK, but not great. Consider more
- “Similar paragraph structure can be boring if repeated often.”
- “Smaller paragraphs are more effective than longer ones.”
- “Consider using AI (Artificial Intelligence Programs” for writing then edit the work to suit your needs.”



# “Rules for Positive Criticism”

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# Ida Caputi McCarthy

- Ida Mary Caputi was born January 27th in West New York, New Jersey in 1925, just four years before the Great Depression. Her parents, Paul Caputi and his wife Cecilia, sailed from the city of Bari on the Italian Adriatic coast, passing the Statue of Liberty on their way to Ellis Island in 1906. By the time my mother arrived nineteen years later, she had six brothers and one older sister looking after her. Her brothers called her “Dolly” taking her when they played kick-the-can, exploring the back lots, or sled down the steepest hill when the city blocked the street after a heavy snow. It was neighborhood where milk was delivered everyday to the front door by Model T’s, ice came in blocks from a horse drawn wagon, and the calls from the pushcarts vendors brought a promise of a treat if papa thought you were good. And the grandma network knew the location of every child, all day, every day.





- Sentences are varied.
- More of a conversational voice.
- Sense of history (Great Depression)
- Sense of neighborhood woven in.
- Technology of the time woven in.
- More emphasis on narration over punctuation.
- May break into another paragraph on the neighborhood, especially if geared for younger readers.



# Things to Consider When Writing

- You are holding someone's legacy in your hands. Be kind. Consider "need to know."
- Keep to the purpose of the writing.
- Ways of writing about a difficult person truthfully but with kindness. "He was a man of his time." instead of saying he was a bigot.
- "She was strong willed" instead of opinionated or difficult.
- We are not our worst moment.
- Let writing "sit and marinate" before making a final decision.





Lincoln Public Library  
485 Twelve Bridges Drive,  
Lincoln, CA. (916) 434-2410  
(Check on hours before you go.)

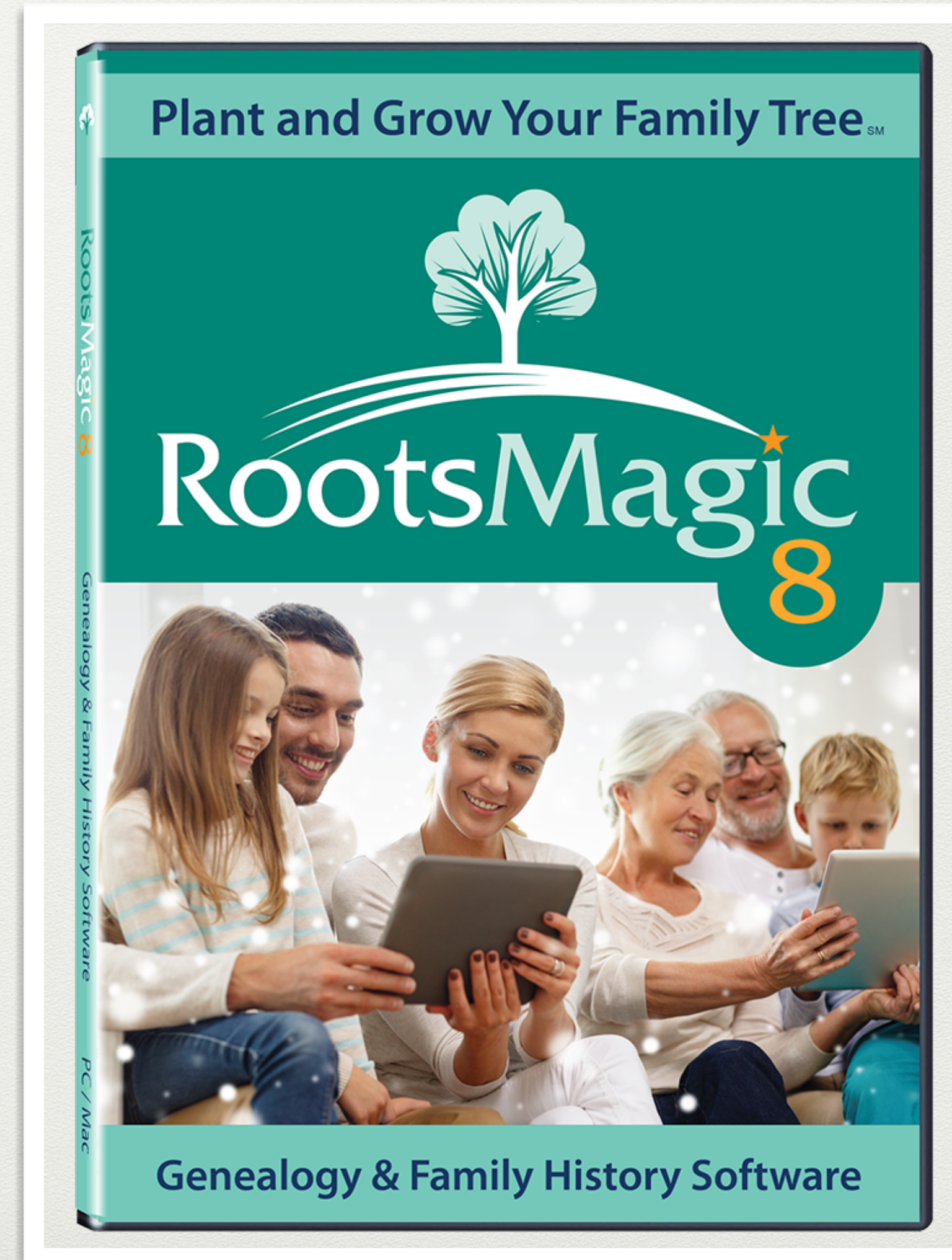
- Genealogy Section is near the Newspapers and Magazines, 979.4
- Section includes Books, Magazines, and DVDs to check out. Magazines are Internet Genealogy and Our Genealogy.
- No Interlibrary loan service; however they have an interesting ZIP Books program arrangement with Amazon.
- Accessible online through Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy to download magazines and books by internet.
- Great handout called “Digital Library for Seniors” Training.
- Online Research and Education Portal has Genealogy and History: <https://www.lincolncalifornia.gov/en/parks-recreation-and-activities/research-and-education.aspx>
- Cards are free and the staff is friendly.





# Family Search and Roots Magic

- **Create a Family History (Family Search):** [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Create a Family History](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Create_a_Family_History)
- **Extensive List of Questions:** [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Creating A Personal History](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Creating_A_Personal_History)
- **Roots Magic:** <https://www.rootsmagic.com/>
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# Ancestry and My Canvas

- **Ancestry Support Center:** [https://support.ancestry.com/s/?language=en\\_US](https://support.ancestry.com/s/?language=en_US)
- **Ancestry and My Canvas:** <https://www.mycanvas.com/>
- **How To Turn Ancestry Data into a Book:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRj8wAPzO-w>
- **(Note) My Heritage prints charts and posters, and says it can print books in PDF form, but it doesn't look well developed...yet.** <https://education.myheritage.com/article/how-to-create-a-family-tree-chart-or-book-on-myheritage/>





# Story Corp

- Story Corp is a great introduction to the impact of family history with tools on how to interview family members, what questions to ask, record them on their app, and save them for yourself and/or upload them to the Library of Congress for future family members. Free.
- StoryCorp is featured on NPR radio.
- Think about interviewing the older and younger generations? All have life experience and history.
- Great Questions: <https://storycorps.org/participate/great-questions/>
- Story Corp Website: <https://storycorps.org/>





# StoryWorth

- **StoryWorth is a memoir site you can use questions to create a book about you and your family. Photography can be added to the page.** [https://welcome.storyworth.com/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=Prospecting-US-Search-BrandedKeywords-7.11.22&source\\_id=google&sub1=Prospecting-US-Search-BrandedKeywords-7.11.22&gclid=Cj0KCQiAo-yfBhDARIsANr56g5lXcWfMdoyzaHL7J3B6WzWrixYe\\_4Kd8szYDXC5IN5rgXpX0PNX3EaAjZZEALw\\_wcB&oid=44&affid=5](https://welcome.storyworth.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Prospecting-US-Search-BrandedKeywords-7.11.22&source_id=google&sub1=Prospecting-US-Search-BrandedKeywords-7.11.22&gclid=Cj0KCQiAo-yfBhDARIsANr56g5lXcWfMdoyzaHL7J3B6WzWrixYe_4Kd8szYDXC5IN5rgXpX0PNX3EaAjZZEALw_wcB&oid=44&affid=5)
- **You can also “gift” a subscription and share the writing process by reading each other’s work.**





# More Resources

- **Steps to Writing a Family History :** <https://www.thoughtco.com/steps-to-writing-your-family-history-1422877>
- **Oral History to Written History:** <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/oral-history/>
- **From Boring to Brilliant:** <https://genealogystories.co.uk/how-to-go-from-boring-to-brilliant-family-history-writing/>
- **2023 Reviews of Family History Software:** <https://www.movavi.com/learning-portal/family-tree-software.html>
- **Microsoft Family History Template:** <https://templates.office.com/en-us/family-history-book-tm10103059>
- Look on the club website for Bob Ringo's presentation on digitizing and organizing your research.

