Why should we care about writing our stories?
• Story is powerful—it changes lives; and we have many stories.
• Loss of living memory remains a very critical issue for family historians.
• Writing our stories makes our research more transferable.

Overcoming some of general obstacles to writing.
→ Own the fact that typically writing isn’t easy.
→ Wanting to write + committing to write (experience) = enjoyment.
→ Try to write every day.
→ Your unique thoughts and events with your unique words.
→ You don’t need to start at the beginning.
→ Engage your senses: sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste.

Writing Prompts
• Pictures
• Recipes and Cooking
• A Word
• A Record
• Specialty (News)Letters
• Calendar
• Something you read or hear
• News of the day—local or national
• Self-interview
  • www.GenealogyCenter.info/LifeStories
  • Listen to reporters
  • Read journalists

Extras
Reading more, and more widely, will help one write better…and more.
Read diaries and letters to find writing prompts and inspiration.
→ William Warfield Diaries:
  http://contentdm.acpl.lib.in.us/digital/collection/Warfield
→ Carrie Patten Cronk Diaries:
  www.GenealogyCenter.info/search_cronk.php
→ Vaun darling, I love you!: The Korean War Letters of Maxwell P. Smith:
  www.GenealogyCenter.info/military/koreanwar/search_maxwellpsmith.php