

A Legacy Vs. A Man Who Never Was

Some years ago I became curious about my ancestry: who are the people who are responsible for my being? I tried various methods of research but eventually a limit was reached and many/most of my individual ancestors are presumably lost forever. Therefore, but for the incidence of reproduction and even, in some cases, not much more than a seed passed, the title of 'The Man or Woman Who Never Was', for those forever hidden, would seem to apply. My intention therefore is to avoid that dubious distinction and for better or worse, pass on my personal story to those who follow. Further, as a police professional my story is a reflection of the life of so many in what has been described as 'A ringside seat to the greatest show on earth' and our truly unique experiences, beyond the imagination of most, is a worthy if not imperative tale to tell.

Creating a Record of Legacy.

To begin:

Investigate and decide how you will record/write the legacy project: write, type, vocalize (high tech methods) then pick a time and place to work.

...Next, do a rough outline of general idea's and then some research. This requires communication to the many in your life; family, friends, professional contacts, both past and present, and it also provides the motivation to renew old relationships, revive memories via war stories and the like.

Next, do a more structured outline that might look something like this:

...A short paragraph to the reader explain the purpose and intent is always a good idea. ...
Permission here hereby granted to plagiarize any or all of this opening paragraph.

...The beginning; birthplace, time date and circumstances.

...Immediate nuclear family and social circumstances regarding the first years of life.

...Some historic/cultural notes on life in that particular age.

...Earliest memories. (Note! Important not to become the cure for insomnia by being too 'wordy').

...Social life; family friends, school, sports and again, major influences.

...Adolescence and Teen years.... Experience, cause and effect (and excuses).

...Early adulthood, again including social/cultural/religious affects.

...where applicable, a military background and/or other profound influences.

The 'Job'

... When, where, how, why and what.

...The setting: Describe the times in terms of your life up to that time, as well as domestic/national trends, benefits and adversities, and how you fit into the mix (see "insomnia alert" above).

...First assignments (use synonyms where necessary), impressions, both plus and negatives.

Settling into a career.

- ... Achievements, failures, benefits, experiences and the effect of all of the above (careful, another possibility for endless stories but also the possibility of a book; who knows?).
- ...The most profound or extreme situations or circumstances that had impact on you and consequences from them.
- ...The effects on family and 'life in general' of being a cop.
- ...People worthy of honoring with words of respect and/or admiration.
- ...How the city, the world and yourself changed over time and how each relates to the other (insomnia cure threat rises again).

The End and New Beginning.

- ...Circumstances and mind-set that result in leaving 'the job'.
- ...The overall effect on others, starting with those closest to you.
- ...Detoxification from our past life: hopefully, the end of bad dreams; accepting the term 'full boat'; stop seeing everyone you don't know as 'a potential police critic with possible unlawful intent' and taking 'certain liberties' when driving (among many others).
- ...Thoughts and actions concerning 'What's next'? Using our past knowledge and experiences in another profession, a new focus on business, volunteering, spiritual/social/artistic development, or just trying to master the worthy art of self-gratification?
- ...Making passing time a worthy and productive prospect for ourselves and more importantly for others, and keeping those 'pension bucks' coming.

Finally, remember to edit by both frequent review and assistance from others well equipped to aide you and provide guidance to given subject matter; then number the pages and provide the reader with a 'chaptered' index that can ensure easier/quicker access to area's most interested in. Remember a great slogan of renowned artists; 'The goal is not to live forever but to create something that can last forever'. Further, keep in mind that a literary masterpiece is not prerequisite to meaningful work that many could only wish they had ancestral access too.... so maybe it's time to find a comfortable private place where you can collect the necessary historical documents and records, maybe photos or other memorable paraphernalia. Make a few phone calls to old mates in the profession to revive memories, and along with a glass/bottle of your favorite beverage, begin to put together a gift to descendants, literally, throughout the ages, that will prevent you from being The Man/Women Who never was.

Respectfully Submitted
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