



“Highly enjoyable mix of humour and sensitivity, honest searching and sound research. I cared what happened to these characters.”

- Claire Morris, Coordinating Editor: *Solander*, the Magazine of the Historical Novel Society

“Highly recommended. A warm, funny and thoughtful story. Smith’s research is first-rate.”

- Elizabeth Ridley, Owner of “The Writer’s Midwife” and author of *Dear Mr. Carson* (The Permanent Press, 2006)

OTHER WORKSHOPS IN THIS SERIES:

WRITE IT SO THEY’LL READ IT:

Your family history or life story deserves to be told in a way that ensures it will be read and enjoyed. Learn proven, practical writing methods that will bring your stories to life on the page.

PEER REVIEW: Participants share excerpts from their draft manuscripts and receive positive commentary and suggestions from the workshop leader and other writers.

PREPARE TO PUBLISH: For those interested in publishing their manuscript. You will learn about the range of options available, from desktop publishing to print shops to full-service publishers, plus what is required for each option and which one best suits your project.



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A WORKSHOP
PRESENTED BY

LEE ANN ECKHARDT
SMITH

*Writing Family History or
Memoir – Even if You’re
Not a Writer*

PART 1: Getting Started



Do you have a fascinating life or family story to tell? Maybe you’ve heard family stories all your life that you’d like to record before they’re forgotten. Discover how to get started on a family history or memoir.

YOUR FAMILY HISTORY OR MEMOIR DESERVES TO BE TOLD

More and more people are discovering the joy of recording their family's history or their own life story. A recent poll indicates that genealogy research is second only to gardening in popularity in Canada. And memoirs are appearing in ever-greater numbers.

Beyond just the names and dates of "who begat whom", every family has a rich background of people and events. And every life story presents an opportunity for reflection, clarity and revelation. Recording these provides a priceless gift for present and future generations – and are often significant for people far beyond your immediate family.

But how do you get started? What resources are available?

IN THIS WORKSHOP YOU WILL LEARN:

1. How to decide the scope and audience for your project (what to write and for whom)
2. Effective interviewing techniques and how questionnaires can help
3. Research "how tos" and resources, including what's local and free
4. Proven, practical first steps to get you going and to build momentum
5. How to choose the best format for the final output of your story
6. What books and other resources are available to help you with your project



ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Lee Ann Eckhardt Smith is an experienced workshop facilitator and trainer who has conducted many types of sessions for large and small groups, both in business and in the Ottawa community.

She is the winner of the 1999 Chapters Short Story contest for Eastern Ontario, author of the social history/family history book *Strength Within: The Granger Chronicles*, the poetry collection "A Life Worth Living" as well as several other published stories and poems.