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## **JANUARY 2020**

### **Who Does Your Family Think You Were?**

Perhaps you watch popular TV programs that seek to locate the ancestors of a celebrity or other famous person. Inevitably the person interviewed has little to no idea of the accomplishments and significance of their ancestors. By contrast, you have an opportunity today to leave your family and future descendants with important information about who you were.

In mid-December the Washington Post magazine published an article on writing one's own obituary. While you may not wish to write a full-blown obituary of yourself, you may wish to leave your family with information about you that will assist them in writing an obituary about you.

#### **Family Facts**

Your full legal name  
Date and place of birth  
Names of your parents  
Names of your siblings  
Names of your children and grandchildren  
Name of your spouse

Include contact information for all of these people. Address, phone numbers, email addresses.

#### **Your Education**

Schools and colleges you attended or from which you graduated. List your major field of study. List any honors you received.

#### **Professional Accomplishments Jobs Held**

List important professional accomplishments.

List jobs you held including the length of time you held the job and significant responsibilities.

#### **Certifications, Publications or other achievements.**

Professional or other certifications you held.

Publications

Civic organizations to which you belong and any leadership posts you held in those organizations. Church activities, boy scout and girl scout positions in which you served, fraternal and other civic organizations like Women's Clubs or the Rotary Club.

#### **Hobbies and other Interests**

List your major hobbies or other interests. Do you like cooking, travel, gardening, golf, hiking? Give your family a sense of how you liked to spend your leisure time.

If you need inspiration or ideas look at the blurbs in your alumni magazines and read the obituaries of others.

May you live respected and die regretted.