

Writing Your Church History

Fall Workshop for Church Historians
2006

Why are you doing this?

- Celebrate a milestone
- Document your history
- Scholarship

Who's going to read this?

- You and your successor historians
- Members of the church at one point in time
- Prospective members
- Posterity
- Scholars

Who's going to do the work?

- You
- Someone else
- A committee
 - Organize work by function (researching, writing, editing, graphics)
 - Organize work by topic (by chronology, by church functions or missions, by physical location)

What are you going to produce?

- Organized files
- Scrapbook
- Exhibit
- Souvenir book
- Article
- Book

What story are you going to tell?

- The mission
 - Nursery schools, soup kitchens, education, prison ministries
- The people
 - Individuals (pastors, leaders, worker-bees)
 - Groups (UMW, youth, choir)
- The events
 - Fires, tornadoes, performances
 - Regular events (plant sales, 4th of July picnics)

How are you going to organize it?

- Chronologically
 - Seamlessly
 - By era (Depression, Civil Rights Era)
 - By pastorate
- Group
- Mission
- Location

Besides the main narrative

- Timeline
- Glossary
- Biographical profiles
- Document snippets
- Visuals (photos, reproductions of letters)