

We, The Shamans

Chapter 2

WHY DO WE WRITE?

First, let's get realistic with our expectations. Few, if any, of us will ever write a best-selling book. There are simply too many writers for that to happen. Be that as it may, you can write something worthwhile that will be of interest beyond the immediate family. It might even be a book widely read within the area where you live. If well-written and published, there is a chance that it could even win an award. And there is always the chance that someone may find the book, or part of the book, so interesting that it will be turned into a screenplay.

For me, the most important reason to write my family history was to immortalize members of my family. As a result of my efforts, they now reside within the pages of my book in homes, public libraries, and on a shelf in the Library of Congress for what I hope will be forever.

6—We, The Shamans

Your book, or books, may also find their way into homes around the world, and, if properly published, may also reside in the Library of Congress. At the very least, it may become a family heirloom that will provide a wealth of information for the enlightenment of future generations.

We must also keep in mind that stories about our families may take many forms. On the low end of the scale, they may consist of only a few pages recording an incident. On the other end of the scale they may consist of one or more books containing several hundred pages that provide much more information. My first book, *The Soul of the Land*, is really a compilation of numerous short stories woven into a much larger story with a central theme covering the life of my grandfather, my great uncle and their families over a span of many years in a book of 520 pages. I'm currently working on another book about my mother's side of the family that should be an equally compelling read.

Regardless of whether the story is long or short, the process described within the following pages remains basically the same. So let's get started.