

The Fireside Gazette™

Family history, home cooking and letters, by the fire.

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FIRST EDITION · FREE ONLINE

FIRST EDITION · FREE TO READ · FREE TO SUBMIT · NO ADVERTISERS, SPONSORS OR AFFILIATE LINKS IN THIS ISSUE.

Pull Up a Chair by the Fire

FREE RECORDS, OLD RECIPES, LETTERS AND REMEMBRANCE

EIGHT PAGES, FREE TO READ, FREE TO SUBMIT

For the searchers, the keepers of the recipe box, and everyone who still writes a letter by hand.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Most family history is locked behind a paywall or scattered across a hundred websites. This paper starts with a simple promise: every issue, a plain list of places you can search for free, checked before it is printed, along with the recipes, letters and stories families keep.

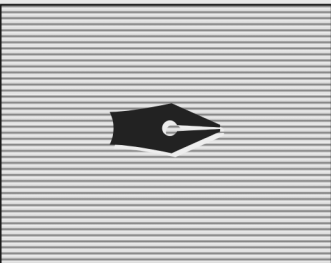
It is edited by Christine Burke von Riddern, FGG, author of 13 books, including Concrete Clues, a #1 Amazon bestseller in Genealogy.

FAMILY HISTORY

The Record-Room Index

14 free sources, sorted by type, with what each one holds.

This issue's list **Page 2**



THE LETTER-WRITER'S DESK — Six prompts to start a letter this week. (Illustration.)

Write Them a Letter

THE LETTER-WRITER'S DESK

The letters in the attic are how we know our ancestors. The letters we write now will be how our families know us.

Prompts & gifts **Page 7**

FROM THE PUBLISHER

ADVERTISE HERE

Reach Family Researchers

Archives, scanning, stationery, kitchen goods and keepsake books. Write to hello@firesidegazette.com.

HOME-FRONT KITCHEN

Gingerbread From 1918

FROM THE OLD PAPERS

When families were asked to save wheat in 1918, *Farm and Fireside* printed a gingerbread that used cornmeal for half the flour. We reprint it word for word, with five more recipes from the same year.

The recipes **Page 6**

“Notice that this recipe uses cornmeal for half the wheat flour ordinarily used.”

— Farm and Fireside, July 1918

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Old Papers, New Finds

Small-town papers printed who visited whom and who sold the farm. Our column shows how to find those notices.

Search habits **Page 3**

Who Is in the Shoebox?

A tintype is iron; a magnet sticks to it.

Photo guide **Page 4**

Beyond the Headstone

A REMEMBRANCE COLUMN

A headstone gives a name and two dates. This free column gives the life: families tell the story in their own words and their own photographs.

How it works **Page 5**

Send Us Your Story

Family stories, recipes, letters and photo mysteries are free to submit. Published writers are credited as Featured Contributors.

Submissions **Page 8**

The Gazette by Post

One short e-mail a week, free. [Subscribe »](#)

THIS ISSUE IN THE RECORD-ROOM INDEX

FAMILYSEARCH

Billions of indexed records, digitized microfilm and a shared family tree, run by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *Free with a free account.*

CHRONICLING AMERICA (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)

Digitized historic American newspaper pages, searchable by word, state and date. *Free.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES: GENEALOGY

The U.S. National Archives' starting point for census, military, immigration and land records. *Free to search.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG

Search the National Archives' online catalog, including many digitized documents. *Free.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES: CENSUS RECORDS

How to find and use U.S. federal census records. *Free guide.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES: FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS

Guide to Reconstruction-era Bureau records, a key source for African American family history. *Free guide.*

STATUE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND FOUNDATION

Passenger records for arrivals through the Port of New York. *Free with a free account.*

BLM GENERAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS

Federal land patents (homestead and other land grants) issued by the U.S. government. *Free.*

FIND A GRAVE

Volunteer-built memorial pages and headstone photos for cemeteries worldwide. *Free.*

BILLIONGRAVES

GPS-tagged headstone photos transcribed by volunteers. *Free to search.*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

From the 1918 Kitchen

Oatmeal Betty, corn-rice muffins and a popcorn pudding, reprinted word for word. **Page 6.**

Six Letter Prompts

Write to the ancestor you are searching for, or to your family ten years from now. **Page 7.**

What a Notice Can Tell

Obituaries, society columns, legal notices and cards of thanks. **Page 3.**

Caring for Photographs

Cool, dry, dark, and labeled in soft pencil. **Page 4.**

FREE TO READ · FREE TO SUBMIT · [TURN THE PAGE »](#)

FAMILY HISTORY • FREE TO SEARCH

The Record-Room Index

14 FREE PLACES TO SEARCH FOR YOUR FAMILY

Every link opened and checked before printing. Paid sites are never listed as free.

SOURCE	TYPE	WHAT IT HOLDS	COST
FamilySearch www.familysearch.org/en	All records	Billions of indexed records, digitized microfilm and a shared family tree, run by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.	Free with a free account
Chronicling America (Library of Congress) www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america	Newspapers	Digitized historic American newspaper pages, searchable by word, state and date.	Free
National Archives: Genealogy www.archives.gov/research/genealogy	Federal records	The U.S. National Archives' starting point for census, military, immigration and land records.	Free to search
National Archives Catalog catalog.archives.gov	Federal records	Search the National Archives' online catalog, including many digitized documents.	Free
National Archives: Census Records www.archives.gov/research/census	Census	How to find and use U.S. federal census records.	Free guide
National Archives: Freedmen's Bureau Records www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau	African American	Guide to Reconstruction-era Bureau records, a key source for African American family history.	Free guide
Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island Foundation heritage.statueofliberty.org	Immigration	Passenger records for arrivals through the Port of New York.	Free with a free account
BLM General Land Office Records glorerecords.blm.gov	Land	Federal land patents (homestead and other land grants) issued by the U.S. government.	Free
Find a Grave www.findagrave.com	Cemeteries	Volunteer-built memorial pages and headstone photos for cemeteries worldwide.	Free
BillionGraves billiongraves.com	Cemeteries	GPS-tagged headstone photos transcribed by volunteers.	Free to search
Internet Archive: Genealogy archive.org/details/genealogy	Books & directories	Digitized county histories, family histories and city directories.	Free
Google News Archive news.google.com/newspapers	Newspapers	Scanned back issues of some newspapers, browsable by title.	Free
Portal to Texas History (UNT) texashistory.unt.edu	Newspapers	Texas newspapers, photographs, maps and documents from the University of North Texas Libraries.	Free
Cyndi's List www.cyndislist.com	Directory	A long-running, categorized directory of genealogy links.	Free

HOW TO USE THE INDEX

Start Broad

Begin with FamilySearch and the census. A census every ten years places a family in a household, a town and a decade.

Then Go Local

County histories, city directories and local papers fill in what federal records leave out.

Visit the Graves

Headstone photos give dates and family plots. Read neighboring stones; relatives were often buried together.

FROM THE PUBLISHER
SPONSOR THE INDEX

A Labeled Notice

At the top of the Index.

hello@firesidegazette.com

KEEP A RESEARCH LOG

Write It Down

Note every place you searched, even when you found nothing. A blank search is a result.

Cite the Source

Record the title, page, date and link, so you or a cousin can find it again.

One Question at a Time

Pick one person and one question. Searching for everything at once finds nothing.

Suggest a Source

Know a free source we missed? Write to hello@firesidegazette.com.

WHAT EACH KIND OF RECORD CAN TELL YOU

Census

Who lived in the household, their ages and birthplaces, and the neighbors next door.

Land

When a family arrived, where the farm lay, and sometimes who inherited it.

Passenger Lists

The ship, the date of arrival, and often the town left behind.

Cemeteries

Dates, family plots, and names of children who did not appear in a census.

FREE HELP CLOSE TO HOME

Public Libraries

Many libraries offer free genealogy databases to card holders, at the library or from home.

Genealogical Societies

County and state societies keep indexes, cemetery surveys and volunteers who know the area.

County Courthouses

Deeds, wills and marriage records are often kept at the county seat.

Family Papers

Bibles, letters and scrapbooks in a relative's closet may answer what no web-site can.

THE FULL INDEX IS ONLINE AT /SOURCES/ • OLD-NEWSPAPER FINDS ➤

FAMILY HISTORY • A REGULAR COLUMN

Old-Newspaper Finds

WHAT THE CERTIFICATES LEAVE OUT

Obituaries, society columns, legal notices and the small-town "personals."

FIVE SEARCH HABITS THAT FIND MORE

Beating the Bad Scan

Old newspapers were scanned and read by software, and old type is easy to misread. A name you know is on the page may not come up in a search. These habits help.

- 1

Search spellings, not just names.

Try initials, nicknames and likely misspellings.
- 2

Search the husband's name for a married woman.

Older papers often printed "Mrs. John Smith."

- 3

Search the street address or the farm.

Addresses survive bad scans better than surnames.
- 4

Read the whole page.

Small-town columns list visitors, illnesses and trips without a headline.
- 5

Check the week after.

Funeral reports, cards of thanks and estate notices follow an obituary.

Where to Search Free

THE STARTING LIST

Chronicling America at the Library of Congress holds digitized historic American newspapers.

Google News Archive has scanned back issues of some papers.

The Portal to Texas History covers Texas papers.

Many **state libraries** run free newspaper projects of their own.

Readers' Finds

FROM THE MAILBAG

Readers may send the best notice they have found about their own family. It will be printed with permission and the source cited.

None are shown yet, and none will ever be invented.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

ADVERTISE
HERE

Newspaper Archives

Reach readers who search old papers.
Write to hello@firesidegazette.com.

WHAT EACH KIND OF NOTICE CAN TELL YOU

Obituaries

Survivors and where they lived, the church, the cemetery, the employer and sometimes the town of birth.

Society Columns

Who visited whom, who travelled, who was ill. Relatives often appear here years before or after a death.

Legal Notices

Estate settlements, land sales and name changes, often naming heirs and executors.

Cards of Thanks

Printed after a funeral, they can name the family members who signed them.

MORE PLACES NAMES HIDE

School News

Honor rolls, graduations and spelling bees put children in a town in a given year.

Church Notes

Baptisms, confirmations and weddings, often with the officiating minister named.

Court Columns

Fines, lawsuits and divorces were often printed in short paragraphs.

Letters Lists

Post offices printed lists of unclaimed letters, showing who was in town.

READING OLD TYPE

"Inst." and "Ult."

Old papers wrote "the 5th inst." for the 5th of this month and "the 5th ult." for the 5th of last month.

"Prox."

"The 5th prox." meant the 5th of next month. Check the date of the issue before you record a date.

Relict

An old word for a widow: "relict of the late John Smith."

Consort

Used on stones and in notices for a wife or husband, often one who died first.

A SAMPLE SEARCH, STEP BY STEP (EXAMPLE ONLY)

1. The Question

Example: when did "Mrs. John Smith" of a small town die? (A made-up name, for illustration.)

2. The First Search

Search her husband's name and the town, then the street, in the years you suspect.

3. The Notice

A death notice gives a date. The funeral report a week later names the mourners.

4. The Follow-Up

Search the estate notice in the legal columns months later for the heirs.

BEFORE YOU SEARCH

Know the Town

Find which papers served the town in the years you need. Neighboring towns count.

Know the Years

Narrow the dates. A ten-year window is easier to read than fifty.

Know the Names

List every spelling and nickname you have seen in family papers.

Know the Library

Some papers were never scanned. A library may hold them on microfilm.

WHEN YOU FIND THEM

Save the Page

Download or print the whole page, not just the clipping.

Write the Citation

Paper, town, date, page and column, plus where you found the scan.

Transcribe It

Type it out word for word. Bad scans fade; your copy will not.

Share It

Send it to cousins, or to us for Old-Newspaper Finds.

READ THE WHOLE PAGE • PHOTO MYSTERIES >

FAMILY HISTORY • A REGULAR COLUMN

Photo Mysteries

WHO IS IN THE SHOEBOX?

The format of a photograph is the first clue to its date.

A FIELD GUIDE TO OLD PHOTOGRAPHS (APPROXIMATE YEARS)	
Daguerreotype Mirror-like silver image on metal, in a hinged case.	1839 to about 1860
Ambrotype Image on glass backed with black.	Mid-1850s to the 1860s
Tintype Image on thin dark iron; a magnet sticks.	From 1856
Carte de visite Small print on a calling-card-sized mount.	U.S., from about 1860
Cabinet card Larger print on stiff card, studio name below.	About the 1870s to early 1900s
Real-photo postcard Photograph on postcard stock.	From the early 1900s
Formats overlapped. Treat these as a starting range, not a verdict.	

Other Clues

READING THE PICTURE

The studio imprint. City directories show the years a photographer worked at an address.

Clothing and hair. Sleeves, collars and hairstyles changed every few years.

The back. Even a first name and a town narrow the search.

Send Us Your Mystery

NOW ACCEPTING

Readers may send a family photograph they own, with permission to print it. See Reader Submissions on page 8.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

ADVERTISE
HERE

Photo Scanning

Reach families with boxes of old photo-
graphs. Write to
hello@firesidegazette.com.

CARING FOR OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Keep Them Cool

Store photographs somewhere cool, dry and dark, not in an attic or a damp basement.

Hold the Edges

Handle prints by their edges, with clean, dry hands.

Pencil, Not Ink

Label the back lightly in soft pencil; ink can bleed through over time.

Scan Before You Share

Make a digital copy before lending an original to anyone.

HOW TO ASK THE FAMILY

Bring Copies

Show relatives copies, not originals, so nothing is lost or damaged.

Ask the Eldest First

Older relatives may recognize a face, a porch or a car.

Write Down Every Guess

"Maybe Aunt May" is a clue. Note who said it and when.

Compare Faces

Line up photographs of known relatives at the same age.

LABELING FOR THE FUTURE

Full Names

Write the full name, not "Grandma." Someday no one will know whose grandmother.

The Place

The town, the house, the church. Places outlast memories.

The Year

A guess is better than nothing. Write "about 1925" if you are unsure.

Who Told You

Note who identified the faces, so later readers know how sure to be.

WHAT ELSE IS IN THE PICTURE

The Background

Painted studio backdrops, porches and barns can be matched to other family photographs.

Cars and Signs

An automobile or a shop sign in the frame gives an earliest possible year.

Uniforms

Military, school and lodge uniforms point to records worth searching.

Who Is Missing

A family group without one child may date the picture before a birth or after a death.

WHERE PHOTOGRAPHS HIDE

Family Bibles

Photographs and cards were often tucked between the pages.

Cousins' Boxes

Every branch of a family kept different pictures. Ask them all.

Local Museums

Historical societies hold studio collec- tions and town photographs.

Yearbooks

School yearbooks give faces with names and a year attached.

SCANNING AT HOME

Clean the Glass

Dust on the scanner shows up on every copy.

Scan the Back

Writing and studio marks on the back are part of the record.

Name the Files

Put names and a year in the file name, not just a number.

Keep Two Copies

Store copies in two places, so one loss is not the last.

A MAGNET TELLS A TINTYPE • BEYOND THE HEADSTONE ➤

A REMEMBRANCE COLUMN • NOW ACCEPTING REMEMBRANCES

Beyond the Headstone

THE LIFE, NOT JUST THE DATES

A headstone gives a name and two dates. The family gives the story.

HOW THE COLUMN WORKS

Told by the Family

A headstone does not say that she sang in the choir, kept the family Bible, or made the best pie in the county. Beyond the Headstone is a free column where families tell the story in their own words.

① **Families write it.** A relative sends a short remembrance and photographs they own.

② **No copying.** Nothing is taken from social media or other memorial sites.

③ **No imitation.** No artificial voice or chatbot speaks as the person who died.

④ **Families choose.** They decide what is printed and what stays private.

⑤ **Free.** A remembrance story in the column costs nothing.

The First Remembrance

COMING SOON

The first remembrance will be printed only when a family is ready, and with their permission. This space is left open on purpose.

“For the people a headstone photo leaves out.”

Remembrance Listings

PLANNED • NOT YET OFFERED

Apart from the free column, families may later place a short paid remembrance listing. Every paid listing will be labeled "Paid Listing." Prices have not been set.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

ADVERTISE
HERE

Memorial & Keepsake

Reach families preserving a life story.
Write to hello@firesidegazette.com.

HOW TO WRITE A REMEMBRANCE

Start Small

Begin with one detail only family would know: a laugh, a recipe, a saying.

Name the Places

Towns, streets, churches and workplaces help other relatives find the same person.

Be Gentle

Families choose what is printed. Some things can stay private.

Say Who Remains

Children, grandchildren and the cousins still looking for each other.

VISITING A GRAVE

Find It First

Find a Grave and BillionGraves hold volunteer headstone photos and plot details.

Call the Office

Many cemeteries keep burial books that list the plot and who paid for it.

Read the Neighbors

Families were often buried together. Photograph the stones nearby.

Leave It Clean

Never use chalk, shaving cream or wire brushes on a stone.

GATHER BEFORE YOU WRITE

The Dates

Birth, marriage and death dates, and the places for each.

The People

Parents, brothers and sisters, husband or wife, children.

The Work

Jobs, trades, farms, service and the places they were done.

The Small Things

A favorite hymn, a saying, a dish, a habit everyone remembers.

A SAMPLE OPENING (EXAMPLE ONLY • NOT A REAL PERSON)

The Name

"Example: Ada May was born on a farm outside town and never lived more than ten miles from it."

The Detail

"She kept a button tin, and every grandchild learned to count with it."

The Life

"She taught Sunday school for years, and wrote a letter to someone every week."

The Close

"She is buried beside her husband. Her button tin is on our kitchen shelf."

FOR THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Keep a Copy

File each remembrance with the person's records, so it travels with the family tree.

Cite It

Note who wrote it and when. It becomes a source for later relatives.

Add Photographs

Label every picture you send with names, place and year.

Share It

Send a copy to cousins. Someone may add what you never knew.

WHEN THE STORY IS HARD

Take Your Time

There is no deadline. Send it when you are ready.

Leave Things Out

A remembrance need not tell everything. Families choose.

Ask the Family

Check with close relatives before sending, if you can.

Write to Us First

Unsure what to include? Ask the editor before you write.

FREE TO SUBMIT • HOME-FRONT KITCHEN >

FROM THE OLD PAPERS • PUBLIC-DOMAIN RECIPES

Home-Front Kitchen

RECIPES FROM THE 1918 HOME FRONT

Reprinted word for word from Farm and Fireside, July and November 1918. Spelling as printed.

Oatmeal Betty

Two cups cooked oatmeal, four apples cut up small, one-half cup raisins, one-half cup sugar, one-quarter teaspoon cinnamon. Mix and bake for half an hour. Serve hot or cold. Any dried or fresh fruits, dates, or ground peanuts may be used instead of apples. Will serve five people.

From Farm and Fireside, July 1918, “New Less-Wheat Recipes”.

Corn-Rice Muffins

One cup cornmeal, one cup boiled rice, one cup milk, one tablespoon fat, one teaspoon salt, two teaspoons baking powder, two eggs. Mix cornmeal, rice, milk and shortening together; beat five minutes; then add well-beaten eggs, beat two minutes, and add baking powder. Bake in hot greased muffin tins or in shallow pan. Boiled hominy may be used in the above recipe instead of rice.

From Farm and Fireside, July 1918, “New Less-Wheat Recipes”.

Gingerbread

One cup cornmeal, one cup wheat flour, two teaspoons cinnamon, two teaspoons ginger, one-half teaspoon salt, one teaspoon baking powder, one teaspoon baking soda, one cup molasses, one cup sour milk or buttermilk, two tablespoons fat. Sift the dry ingredients and add molasses, milk, and fat. Beat well, and pour into a greased pan. Bake twenty-five minutes. Notice that this recipe uses cornmeal for half the wheat flour ordinarily used.

From Farm and Fireside, July 1918, “New Less-Wheat Recipes”.

Combination Muffins

One cup milk, one tablespoon fat, two tablespoons syrup, two eggs, four teaspoons baking powder, one teaspoon salt, three-fourths cup ground rolled oats, one cup corn flour. Add to the cup of milk the melted fat, syrup, and slightly beaten egg. Sift the salt, baking powder, and flour together. Use a coarse sieve so that no part of the flour is wasted. Combine the two mixtures, stirring lightly without beating. Bake in a hot oven from twenty to thirty minutes, depending upon the size of the muffins.

From Farm and Fireside, July 1918, “New Less-Wheat Recipes”.

Simplicity Pudding

Soak slices of bread in hot milk until soft, and mash fine with a fork. Add the beaten yolks of two eggs, one tablespoon sugar, a seasoning of salt, and a teaspoon of vanilla. Bake in a slow oven until firm. Over the top put a layer of jelly or some rich preserve, and over this the beaten whites of the eggs. Set in oven until slightly brown and serve.

From Farm and Fireside, November 1918, “Patriotic Puddings,” by L. M. Thornton.

Dutch Pudding

Beat together one egg and one-half cup molasses. Add one cup raisins, one tablespoon butter, one-half cup sour milk, one teaspoon soda, and two cups of flour. Steam one and one-half hours.

From Farm and Fireside, November 1918, “Patriotic Puddings,” by L. M. Thornton.

Popcorn Pudding

Grind two cups popcorn, add three cups milk, three beaten eggs, one-half cup brown sugar, one tablespoon butter, and a little salt. Let stand three hours in a moderately warm place, mix thoroughly, and bake in a slow oven until firm. Serve with cream or a syrup.

From Farm and Fireside, November 1918, “Patriotic Puddings,” by L. M. Thornton.

Corn-Flour Sponge Cake

One cup corn flour, one cup sugar, four eggs, two tablespoons lemon juice, one-eighth teaspoon salt. Separate whites and yolks. Beat the yolks until thick and light lemon color. Beat sugar into the stiffened yolks, and add the lemon juice. Fold in alternately the stiffly beaten whites and flour. Bake in an ungreased pan for thirty-five to forty minutes. Start in a moderate oven, and when about half done raise the temperature to that of a hot oven.

From Farm and Fireside, July 1918, “New Less-Wheat Recipes”.

ABOUT THESE RECIPES

Printed as history. Old recipes give no oven temperature or pan size; use your own judgment. Source: Internet Archive, Farm and Fireside 1918, vol. 42.

THRIFT, IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“Last fall one woman who made a survey of a five-mile circuit found that she could get cornmeal, buckwheat, and whole wheat flour from a neighboring mill. ... The sugar supply of her family of six she cut down to 10 pounds a month, and pieced out this allowance with neighborhood sorghum and honey.”

— Farm and Fireside, July 1918, “New Less-Wheat Recipes”

“I never waste the scraps of cold fish left over from our meatless day, but by adding condiments and sauces to them I usually achieve a dish that brings praise from all members of the family.”

— Farm and Fireside, September 1918

FROM THE PUBLISHER

SPONSOR THE KITCHEN

A Labeled Notice

For kitchen, baking and pantry goods.
Write to hello@firesidegazette.com.

FRUGAL HABITS FOR TODAY

Cook Once, Eat Twice

Plan a second dish from the leftovers before you cook the first.

The Stale-Bread Jar

Bread puddings, crumbs and stuffing all start with yesterday's loaf.

Use the Whole Vegetable

Peelings and ends make broth.

Shop the Pantry First

Look in the cupboard before you write the list.

READING A 1918 RECIPE

A Slow Oven

Old recipes named the heat, not the number: a slow oven was low heat, a hot oven high.

Sour Milk

Milk that had soured, used with soda to raise batters. Buttermilk is the usual stand-in.

Graham Flour

A coarse whole-wheat flour, common in old recipes.

Corn Flour

In these recipes, finely ground corn, used to stretch wheat flour.

SEND US YOUR FAMILY RECIPE • THE LETTER-WRITER'S DESK >

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO STILL WRITE LETTERS

The Letter-Writer's Desk

SIX PROMPTS TO START A LETTER THIS WEEK

The letters in the attic are how we know our ancestors.

THIS ISSUE'S PROMPTS

Pick Up the Pen

The letters we write now will be how our families know us. Choose one prompt, write one page, and mail it this week.

- 1 **The Kitchen You Grew Up In.**
Describe it to a grandchild: the table, the smell on a Sunday, who sat where, and the dish nobody else could make.
- 2 **A Thank-You That Is Years Late.**
Write to someone who helped you long ago: a teacher, a neighbor, a

first employer. Say what they did and what came of it.

- 3 **To the Ancestor You Are Searching For.** Tell them what you have found so far, what you still do not know, and the question you would ask first.
- 4 **The Recipe Card.** Copy out a family recipe by hand and write, on the back, whose it was and when it was made.

A Letter to Open in Ten Years

Write to your own family a decade from now: what the house looks like, what things cost, what you hope for them.

The Photograph Without a Name

Send a copy of an unnamed family photograph to a cousin, with every clue you have, and ask what they remember.

“Write it down. Somebody will want to know.”

How to Begin

A PLAIN METHOD

Date the letter in full, with the town. Say where you are sitting and what you can see. Then say the one thing you most want them to know.

Sign with your full name. Someone a hundred years from now will thank you.

THE GIFT COLUMN: FOR THE LETTER WRITER

Good Paper

Heavier paper takes fountain-pen ink without bleeding through. A boxed set of writing paper with matching envelopes is a gift that gets used.

A First Fountain Pen

A simple pen that takes bottled ink or cartridges is enough to start. Add a bottle of ink in a dark, readable color.

Sealing Wax & a Seal

A stick of sealing wax and a brass seal with an initial make an ordinary envelope feel like an occasion. Ask at the post office before mailing a lumpy envelope; it may need extra postage.

A Letter Box

A plain box to keep the letters you receive. The letters of today are the family papers of tomorrow.

No affiliate links in this column. No product is endorsed.

SHARE A LETTER

Old Letters

Share a family letter you own. We print it with your permission and your name.

New Letters

Wrote from a prompt? Send it in for the next issue.

Keep the Envelope

Postmarks and addresses are clues. Keep them with the letter.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

ADVERTISE
HERE

Stationery & Pens

Paper, ink, pens and sealing wax. Write to
hello@firesidegazette.com.

THE PARTS OF A LETTER

The Heading

Your town and the full date, at the top right. Future readers will need both.

The Greeting

"Dear Margaret," or "My dear cousin." Use the name they knew you by.

The Body

News first, then memories, then the question you want answered.

The Closing

"Your loving niece," then your full name, so no one has to guess.

KEEPING OLD LETTERS SAFE

Unfold Them

Store letters flat. Old folds crack and tear over time.

Keep Them Dry

Away from attics, basements and sunny windows.

No Tape, No Clips

Tape yellows and metal clips rust. Use folders instead.

Copy Them

Scan or transcribe old letters, and share copies with the family.

ADDRESSING THE ENVELOPE

Write Clearly

Print the address plainly, in dark ink, centered on the front.

Return Address

Top left corner. It brings the letter home if it cannot be delivered.

The Stamp

Top right corner. Heavy, square or lumpy envelopes may need more postage.

Save Theirs

Keep the envelopes you receive with the letters inside.

SEE PAGE 8 TO SUBMIT · READER SUBMISSIONS, NEWSLETTER & ADVERTISING >

WRITTEN BY READERS • THE PAPER BY POST • THE MARKETPLACE

Reader Submissions, Newsletter & Advertising

FREE TO SUBMIT • FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS CREDITED BY NAME

Every advertisement, sponsored item and affiliate link labeled, always.

READER SUBMISSIONS

Send Us Your Story

The best pages of a family paper are written by its readers. Sending your story costs nothing. If we print it, you are credited by name as a Featured Contributor.

- 1

Family Stories. A true story from your own family, in your own words.
- 2

Recipes. A family recipe, with whose it was and where it came

- from.
- 3

Letters. An old family letter you own, or a new letter written from one of our prompts.
- 4

Photo Mysteries. An unnamed family photograph you own, with every clue you have.
- 5

How to send. E-mail hello@firesidegazette.com.

The Ground Rules

- Free.** No charge to submit or to be printed.
- Your own work.** Only what you wrote, or photographs you own.
- Permission first.** Nothing printed without it.
- Labeled money.** Submissions are never paid placements. Sponsored items and paid listings, when offered, will be labeled. Prices not yet set.

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THE GAZETTE BY POST • FREE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

IN EVERY ISSUE

New free record sources	✓
A recipe from the old papers	✓
A letter prompt	✓
A photo mystery or newspaper find	✓
One labeled sponsor notice	When sponsors come
First issue coming soon. To subscribe, e-mail hello@firesidegazette.com with SUBSCRIBE. Addresses are never sold or shared.	

Advertise in the Paper

Archives, DNA tests, photo scanning, stationery and pens, kitchen goods and keepsake books. Display, section sponsorships, newsletter notices and directory listings. Rates will be set once readership is measured.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

The Fireside Gazette™ is published by Pony Tale Publishing and edited by Christine Burke von Riddern, FGG, author of 13 books, including Concrete Clues, a #1 Amazon bestseller in Genealogy. Letters: hello@firesidegazette.com.

THE BUSINESS-CARD DIRECTORY • OPEN TO ADVERTISERS

Records & Archives

Newspaper archives, record subscriptions and library services.

Photos & Keepsakes

Scanning, restoration, archival storage and family-story books.

Pen & Kitchen

Stationery, ink, sealing wax, baking and pantry goods.

Our Promise

Every advertisement is labeled. Advertisers never see readers' details.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU SUBMIT

We Read It

Every submission is read by the editor.

We Ask First

We write back to ask permission before anything is printed.

We Check It

Names, dates and places are checked with you before printing.

You Are Credited

Your name appears with the credit "Featured Contributor."

LABELED, ALWAYS

Advertisement

Any paid advertisement will carry the word "Advertisement."

Sponsored

Any paid item will be marked "Sponsored." Prices not yet set.

Paid Listing

Paid remembrance listings will be marked "Paid Listing."

Affiliate Links

Disclosed where they appear. None are live yet.

WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR E-MAIL

Your Name

As you would like it printed, and the town you write from.

Your Piece

In the message or attached. Family stories of a page or two print best.

Photographs

Attach scans of photographs you own, labeled with names and years.

Permission

Say that we may print it, and whether living relatives agree.

THE SECTIONS OF THIS PAPER

Family History

The Record-Room Index, Old-Newspaper Finds and Photo Mysteries. Pages 2 to 4.

Remembrance

Beyond the Headstone, a free column told by families. Page 5.

Home & Letters

The Home-Front Kitchen and the Letter-Writer's Desk. Pages 6 and 7.

Readers

Submissions, the newsletter and the advertisers' directory. Page 8.