



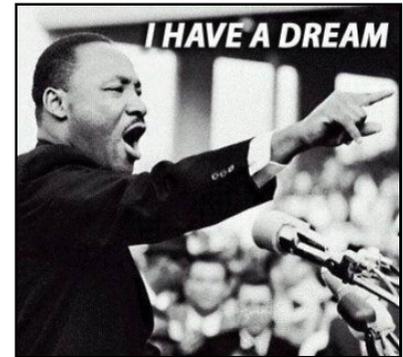
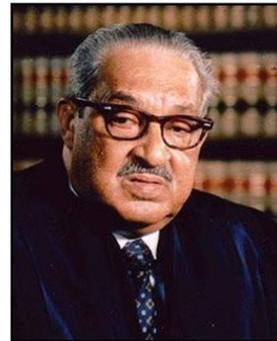
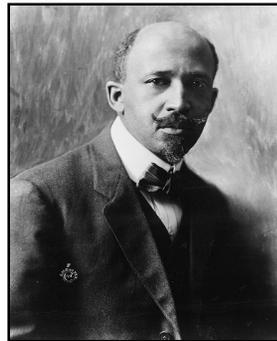
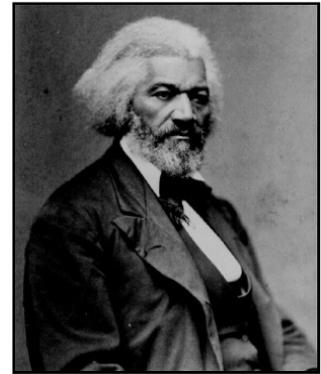
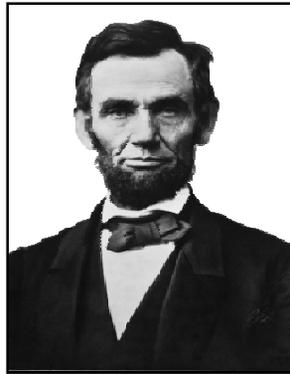
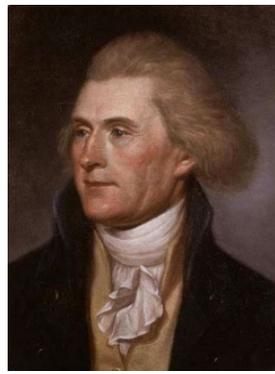
MyFamilyVoices

Every life story is worth telling.

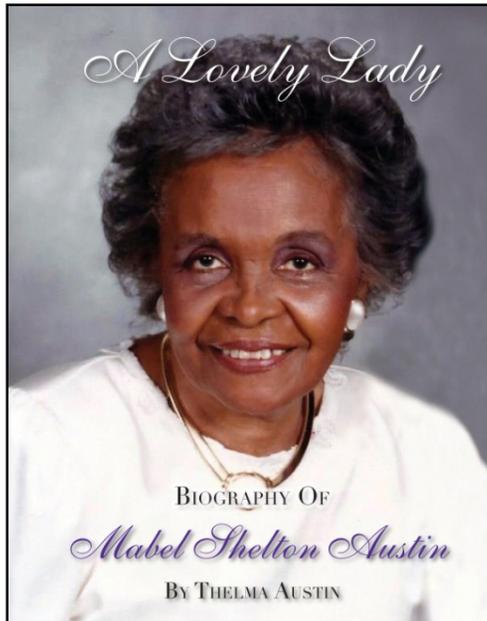
Presentation to the Washington Teachers' Union
Community Education/Shared Vision Conference
February 25, 2017

By Thelma Austin, Publisher

What Do These People Have in Common?



What About These People?



Why Write Your Autobiography Or a Loved One's Biography?

- **For You** 

It can be therapeutic and boost self-esteem, as it will help put your past in perspective and help discern the direction of your future.
- **For Family** 

Many relatives, particularly the eldest, need their life stories recorded. Others, especially the youth, can gain pride, confidence, appreciation, and humility through learning about the faith, challenges, sacrifices, perseverance, and successes of relatives.
- **Forever** 

Your autobiography, when recorded and printed, will serve as part of the historical record for future generations of your family.

Why Not Just Trace Your Genealogy?

- **Genealogical Research Is Very, Very Popular**



Lots of ways to do it, including census records, slave data, DNA tracing.

- **It Brings Unknown Relatives Together**



Helps validate identity. Reveals geographic, cultural, family connections.

- **The Links Are Ancestral and Linear**



They do not put “meat on the bones” of the lives of forebears – or convey their legacies. *We will not meet them in person!* More research is required to learn about their lives, and depends on available records.

- **We Are Tomorrow’s Ancestors!**



By knowing the lives, lessons, values, goals, faith, thoughts and other characteristics of ourselves and loved ones, we can create detailed histories, like a plateau, that help current and future descendants – many generations hence – to understand, value and benefit from their heritage.

Create Lasting Value for Your Family: It Can Be So Simple!

- **Set Your Scope**

- Limit your subject to yourself or people you have actually known.
- Who will be the focus—yourself, parents, grandparents?
(higher up on the family tree = more descendants and other relatives covered)
- Will distribution be just for family and perhaps friends, or via Amazon?
- If for family/friends, will you sell it to them or make it a gift?
- What is your budget and timing?

- **Start with What You Know, Have, and Can Get**

- Select the photo and title for the front cover. Keep the title short.
- Collect lots and lots of family photos—on hand or on loan.
- If desired, let others contribute materials and text.
- Shoot photos of non-scannable artifacts.

Put Your Book Together

- **Scan the Photos**
 - Save each one with a title that makes it easy to find by subject.
- **Figure Out the Sequence of Sections and Pages**
 - Create title pages for sections (chapters) on a chart.
- **Type the Narrative**
 - Create narrative/text for your or your loved one's life story—on computer.
 - Include areas even where photos are not available.
 - Insert family tree(s)
 - When necessary to illustrate parts of the story, get additional information and photos via Google.
 - Insert each photo where appropriate.
 - Type caption under each photo.
- **Layout Your Book**
 - Edit, re-edit, and re-edit again in WORD.
 - Make it camera-ready. If you need assistance, be sure to get it.

Decide How to Print It

- **How Do You Want the Finished Product to Look?**
 - What kind of cover do you want?
 - Do you want your cover and inside pages designed by a graphic artist?
 - How permanent will your book be?
 - Will you be inserting more pages later?
 - Will it be printed on your computer or done professionally?
 - What quality of paper?
 - Options:
 - Stapled, 8 ½" x 11"
 - 3-hole punched for a notebook, 8 ½" x 11"
 - Perfect-bound (glued spine) paperback, any size
 - Hardback, any size
- **How Many Copies Do You Want?**
 - Number of copies for family and friends?
 - Will you be printing additional copies later?
- **What Printing Method to Use?**
 - Print on your home computer? Consider pros and cons.
 - Print externally (Staples, Office Depot, Fedex Office)? Consider pros and cons.
 - Print professionally? Consider pros and cons.
- **Congratulations! You Are Now a Book Author!**



MyFamilyVoices
Every life story is worth telling.

**Biographical Picture Books
For You, For Family, For Ever**

Thelma Austin, Publisher

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