

Letter of Agreement

This is a letter of agreement between Trafford R. Cole Ph.D. of familyhistoryghostwriter51@gmail.com

and _____.

A Family History is much more than just a genealogy of names and dates. When written as a book, it should provide all the historical background that allows the members of the family, young and old, to understand where their ancestors lived, how they lived, and how important historical events interplayed with their lives. The more details that are added, the better we can understand their daily lives: what they normally ate, the types of work they did, and their social interactions.

I have worked for more than forty years in the field of genealogy and family history. I have also published many books in the field of positive psychology, and in the last few years, I have dedicated my time and energy to writing family history books.

There are many ways to write a family history, and if you have sufficient information from your family, even if it is oral history, and want the book written in a certain manner, we can establish the chapters you want written.

Proposal

What I propose are several core chapters that provide the historical background and history of the country, region, and town or towns where your ancestors lived. Then the family's genealogy, century by century, intermixing their lives with the historical events of that century. For example, in most places in Europe, the Protestant Reformation of Martin Luther in 1515 led to wars, struggles, the burning of churches, and completely changed what was

the Holy Roman Empire. The wars of Napoleon, the desire to unite what were small regions into nations, and the changing of national borders were other key events. Each nation and region has a very different background, and this influences how your ancestors lived. This core book consists of at least 6-10 chapters, depending on how many generations of genealogy you have accomplished following just one line of your family's genealogy. I dedicate one chapter to approximately each 100 years of genealogy.

If you have two family lines that lived near each other and want to combine the research on both of them, this can be done, but it will cost extra for the extra chapters on your second family line.

Not only that, but many other chapters can be written, for example, the language they spoke and the local dialects, the cuisine and food from that area, which can include any family recipes that you want to share, what the conditions were that led to the family moving within the region, and/or to the United States. When they emigrated, what did they find? For example, my German ancestors emigrated to the United States and lived in New York City for more than a generation in the late 1890s and early 1900s. I have a full chapter that explains what type of life they lived there, the German community in New York, and how my grandparents met. Not only but I have another chapter where my cousins and I have written their memories of our grandparents, and then two more chapters on the cousins and their families with photographs of all.

Other chapters can be written depending on the country of origin; for example, on my Scottish line, I have written extra chapters on how the Scottish clans were first established, their tartans, their weapons, how they survived in the Highlands with scarce resources, and why they dressed as they did, etc.

Many ghost writers who write fiction are paid by the number of words they print. With non-fiction, as is the case with family histories, this is not possible as much of the time spent by the writer is also devoted to research. Like many others, I ask to be paid by chapter.

Editing and Publishing

I will proofread and edit to the best of my ability to give you a polished copy of the book. You, however, are responsible for the publishing of the book according to your desires. It can be published on Amazon for a very low price, but the quality of their work is not the best. Usually, there are several small publishing companies that will print a limited supply of well-done copies. I will be adding maps and photos of your town of origin, and other photos to bring the history alive. If you have photos of ancestors that you want inserted, please send them to me, and I will put them in. Where to place them depends on your preferences, which is another reason for leaving these decisions to you and the publisher. I write in Times Roman 14, as I find the 12 print much harder to read. You can decide with your editor if you want to change the print size and type. I also write with Word, which can easily be converted to any typeset the publisher wants to use.

If you can't find a publisher, I can give you some names.

Prices

The core book will be written for \$5,000

Each additional chapter that you choose from the list below will be \$500. There is no set number of pages per chapter, but normally it will go from 12-20 pages. I am listing the chapters that come to mind based on the family history books I have already written. You can write in and suggest other chapters that regard your family. Below are some suggestions:

- Language and dialects. Almost everywhere in Europe up to the 19th century, people spoke their local dialect, not modern German, Italian etc.
- Meaning of surnames and names
- Everyday life in the town – types of employment, social life etc.
- Marriage and dating customs
- Emigration
- Life in early America (you can indicate where they first lived)
- Military service
- Memories of an ancestor – this has to be your input. If you are involving other family members, please begin immediately on gathering this material as it has been my experience that they are not as punctual in adding information as you would like.
- Origin of the surname – coat of arms- etc.
- Schooling and education typical of that country and time period. For example, I had an ancestor who was an attorney and court clerk in New York City, but never went to law school because before 1900 it was rare to go to college to become a lawyer.
- Religion
- Employment history. Remember that in the past centuries 75% of people were farmers.
- Family stories about an ancestor- this has to be your input.
- Cuisine, family recipes, etc.
- Extra family lines in the same geographical area – this could be several chapters

In general, the more recent the family the more information is available. So, for families of the 1600 and 1700's we may not have more than names and dates. Once we arrive to the 1800s this can be filled out with more information, and by

the 1900's there are several sources of information available. Consider this when choosing an ancestor you would like to focus on.

□ Other – you can have me write a chapter or more on special topics that regard your family. For example, my father was a member of the Flying Tigers during WWII, and I have a chapter dedicated to their exploits.

Payment

What I need:

1. A signed letter of agreement,
2. All the genealogy you have accomplished on this family line. If it is in Family Search or Ancestry, I can view it if you can share it with me. Otherwise, you need to send it in a format I can download.
3. All the family photos that you want to add, including where you want them inserted. You can gather this information while I am writing the first chapters so that we don't have to wait while you gather this extra material.
4. You need to let me know at what level of reading you want the book. Normally, I use a 10th-grade level, but many writing books suggest that a 6th-grade level is more readable. It depends for whom you are writing the book. You also need to let me know if you want reference notes, end notes on each chapter, or all references at the end of the book, which makes it more readable but less scholarly. Since this is for your family, find the solution that works best for you.
5. A down payment of \$1,000
6. To protect both myself and you, I request payments at each milestone of work. This comes to \$1,000 for every two chapters of research and writing. When I finish the first two chapters, I will proofread them and

send them to you, and will continue to the next chapters when I have received the next \$1,000. I will continue this until we have reached the agreed number of chapters. Then I will edit to the best of my ability, the entire book, insert a table of contents, and the name of the book that you decide on. I have a special account for payments at Deseret First Savings and Loan in Utah.

7. I will set a deadline for when the book will be finished when I know the total number of chapters you want written. Normally, it takes about 4 to 8 months to complete the entire book. Any changes you want to make along the way can be done, but it will delay the completion of the book.

8. I will write the book as a ghostwriter, which means that I will not be mentioned as the author of the book, but rather it will be in your name. I would be grateful however if you could write a letter of recommendation that I could add to my website if you are satisfied with what I have accomplished.

If you would like to see one of my family history books on the Gross – Hubach family in Germany, you may go to: Kindle store on Amazon.com and type in “trafford r cole psyd.” You can read the description of the book, or even order an ebook for \$9.99 to examine it more fully.

I _____ agree to what has been stated in this letter. I have indicated the extra chapters that I want written for a total of _____ chapters including the core chapters as written in the agreement, which comes to a total of \$ _____. I understand and agree on the payments at each milestone of research and writing I receive.,