

# ***Biographical Sketches --- What are They?***

By D. A. Sharpe

Usually, a biographical sketch is autobiographical .... composed by the person about whom the sketch is describing. Occasionally, other writers do the composition. What is composed should be whatever you would approve being published in a public place, such as in your local newspaper. Do not include items you would not want the general public to read, as biographical sketches, generally, are intended for public consumption.

There are several venues which serve as frameworks for biographical sketches. The various types of biographical sketches are defined by the reading audience that is expected and the reason that a biographical sketch was created. Here are primarily the several different kinds of biographical sketches in my perception.

## ***Personal Life***

Your time and place of birth is cited, usually identifying parents and even grandparents. Naming siblings is useful, and placing yourself in the family unit .... you are the third of six children, etc.

Identifying the city or cities in which you grew up, perhaps citing why your family was in those (that) location(s). For example, your father was a civil engineer working at a construction company there.

Your educational experience is good. Naming grammar, middle, junior high and high schools attended and year of high school graduation. Included should be any post high school education, naming the various institutions and the degrees or certifications gained.





## *Genealogical Life*

As a specialized hobby, sometimes you are involved in tracing the ancestry in the family lines from which you are descended. Sometimes, these sketches are useful for audiences you will be addressing about your heritage or about a subject of genealogical interests.

Generally, this would cite the heritage from which you came. Were your ancestors of eastern or western European links, of African links, of Hispanic links or those from the Orient? The earliest dates in your information often is of interest. Does your knowledge of ancestry go back to your great grandparents, or maybe back to your 10th great grandparents?

Are you a member of groups such as the Sons (or Daughters) of the American Revolution? Perhaps you are a Son (or Daughter) of the Republic of Texas, etc. Maybe you are a member of the Mayflower Society. Often these are viable groups active in your area with organizations in which you might have served in leadership roles.

## *Spiritual Life*

A spiritual biographical sketch is not exactly the publication of your spiritual testimony. Your Christian testimony, for example, may have elements in the spiritual biographical sketch, but the sketch usually is intended to introduce you to a reading or expected listening audience with interests in those spiritual matters.

Your spiritual testimony is different, in that it is expected to be a stand-alone article or a verbal message you deliver to a listening audience.

