

“You have heard the novels of your own families; you can make those connections that exist between their various episodes, and you can let the coherent wholes that emerge from the stories play forceful, artistic roles in your lives.” --William A. Wilson

Grandparent Cornerstone Book

Grandpa & Grandma Jones: A Legacy That Lives On

Pg. 1: Their Legacy Lives On

What inspired you to write this book? What do you want your children to remember about your parents?

Pg. 2: Grandfather Benjamin Smith

Give a brief biographical sketch of your father’s childhood. Where and when was he born, who were his parents, what were some of his childhood interests and experiences?

Pg. 3: Grandmother Esther Jones

Give a brief biographical sketch of your mother’s childhood. Where and when was she born, who were her parents, what were some of her childhood interests and experiences?

Pg 4: When Grandma Met Grandpa

Write about how, when and where your parents met. What kinds of things did they like to do together? What did they admire about each other?

Pg. 5: Building a New Life Together

Write about why your parents decided to marry each other. How did your father propose? Where did they get married? Where was their first house? Describe their early life together.

Pg. 6: Working for a Living

What kind of work did your father do? Why did he choose that profession? What kind of professional advice would your father leave for your children? What kind of work ethic and legacy did he leave for them?

Pg. 7: A Woman’s Work is Never Done

Write about your mother’s work and responsibilities. Was she working when she met your father? In school? How did her responsibilities change as children came? What did she do to make your house a home?

Pgs. 8-9: A Growing Family

Write down the names and birthdates of your siblings as well as yourself. Include details about them such as their interests and talents, nicknames, or things they were known for. How did the children get along and care for each other? What experiences did you have that bonded you all together as a family.

Pgs. 10-11: The Places We Called Home

Write about the homes you grew up in. Write about your neighbors, your community, and your surroundings. How did that shape you as you grew up? Where were your favorite places to go? Who were your family's friends?

Pgs. 12-13: Exploring the World Around Us

Describe family vacations or trips that you took together. When was the first time your parents took you beyond the boundaries of your regular home life and community?

Pgs. 14: Grandpa's Favorites

What were some of your father's favorite things: songs, food, recreational activities, books, quotes, music, hobbies, etc.

Pg. 15: Grandma's Favorites

What were some of your mother's favorite things: songs, food, recreational activities, books, quotes, music, hobbies, etc.

Pg. 16: Grandma's Words of Wisdom

What kind of advice would your mother have left to her children? Make a list of some of your mother's positive character traits. What kind of example did she leave as a legacy for your children?

Pg. 17: Grandpa's Words of Wisdom

What kind of counsel would your father leave for his grandkids? What kinds of attitude and ethics would he like to see in his posterity? What kind of example did he set for his posterity?

Pgs. 18-19: Spiritual Reflections

Some people adhere to a specific organized religion. Some people have a more individualistic set of values they adhere to, but you can always tell a person's true beliefs by the way they live. Write about your parents' religious beliefs and personal philosophy of life.

Pgs. 20-21: Their Legacy Lives On

Write your own thoughts about your parents. Include thoughts of siblings, relatives, neighbors, etc.