### Title:
Storybook Tallahassee: Places of My Ancestry.

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### Abstract/Description:
This collection of Creative Nonfiction is like a folding table in the living room corner covered in puzzle pieces. That's been my life: the keeper of the pieces à little facts about our family that have collected over the years in storage bins, drawers and computer files. "Oh, Julie, here's another one: Did you know Granddaddy Alex's nickname was Poulykee? That means 'stone crab' in Greek." Every once in awhile, I wander over to the table and attach another piece. Each discovery adds to the tapestry and the picture is starting to take shape. Like an artist's landscape, small details hint at the place and time and offer clues about the people in the scenery. Like religious iconographic art à each gesture, fact or facial expression brings meaning to the whole. This thesis became an excuse to spend more time at that folding table à and to look for missing pieces that would help bring the picture into better focus. In the research and writing, I was guided by two questions from one of my Thesis committee members: "Why are you doing this? Why do you care?" I had to do some soul searching for the answer. Then discovered a quote that I think best explains my drive: "Life is often lived forward, but understood backwards." - Os Hillman
but understood backwards.” - Os Hillman Understanding
yes. I want to better understand the people and places
of my ancestry and at the same time plug some of the
holes in history. And perhaps separate fact from folklore.
Most important, though, this collection was an excuse to
explore the relatively new genre of Creative Nonfiction. I
happened upon this intriguing newcomer in 1995, a
dozen years into a full-time writing career. My discovery
breathed new life into what had become a formula-
driven journalistic career. Finally, nonfiction writers were
given permission to play with their craft, just like our
fiction counterparts. I’ve been working on our
relationship ever since a seeking workshops that offered
a glimpse of this magnificent attraction, sharing what I
learned with interns I employed and bringing stories
about the object of my affection to a writing seminar for
senior citizens. In seeking a deeper connection to the
genre, I still feel like a face in a crowd of fans behind the
rope at a celebrity event. I get a glimpse of the heady
world of Creative Nonfiction, but feel forever an outsider.
Journey filled with intrigue Like an actor hides behind
her characters, CNF has hidden behind many aliases
over the years à narrative or literary nonfiction, personal
essay, memoir, literary and “new” journalism. I haven’t
noted references to it recently, but there was dramatic
nonfiction for a time as well. Making the character study
even more challenging, the genre’s subcategories
include essays, articles, memoirs, documentary drama
and narrative history, among others. Creative
Nonfiction’s identity crisis has left many of us no choice
but to come up with our own definition. -(Creative
Nonfiction) combines the personal with reading,
research, study and factoid. You can use quotes or
other devices, always in an attempt to create meaning
for the reader.” (Susan Neville, author, English
professor) - “It’s nonfiction with extra imagination.”
(Stuart McIver, author) -(Creative Nonfiction) is fact-
based writing that uses techniques of literary writing. It
uses techniques of journalism and mixes with fiction
writing techniques.” (John Calderazzo) -“Nonfiction is
information à what you communicate to your readers.
The creative part is how you communicate it.” (Lee
Gutkind, author of “The Art of Creative Nonfiction:
Writing and Selling the Literature of Reality”) Gutkind,
who has been called the “godfather” of this new breed of
writing, says further, “Creative nonfiction is a matter of
writing nonfiction using literary techniques such as
scene, dialogue, description, and allowing the personal
point of view and voice, rather than maintaining the
sham of objectivity. It’s taking the time to integrate
dramatic, suspenseful, compelling story structures
within the articles you write.” In order to reach my goal
of exploring Creative Nonfiction techniques, I had to
break my big puzzle into several sections. I chose three
topics from my ancestral ties à Greek roots in
downtown, French ones at San Luis and a place old
Tallahasseeans call simply, “The Coast.” While all are
mentioned in the history of the Capital City of Florida,
none have been explored in depth. So, let’s jump into...
none have been explored in depth. So while my original focus was to stay true to the genre, at one point, I felt driven to assure a thorough account of the topic. And that required breaking my three essays into five parts. As I researched, certain questions plagued me. For example: "How did St. Teresa Beach and St. James Island get named?" And, "What was happening in Alabama or Bainbridge, Georgia for that matter in the early 1900s that attracted teenage Greek immigrants?" For the San Luis vineyard era, "Why would Emile Dubois leave the vineyard he worked so hard to build and one that paid him handsomely?" and midway through research, "Could a black man get a fair trial in Tallahassee in the late 1800s?" Much of my time was spent conforming the pieces to what I look for in good Creative Nonfiction: personal voice, a definite story, scene (vignettes, episodes, slices of reality) and universal appeal. Each story seeks to reach out and embrace the reader to move them along through action and involve the writer as both actor and observer. As a journalist, I couldn't resist the urge to include the teaching element or some sort of information transfer, weaving facts into the story, but trying to avoid a stilted analysis. My hope is that the genre didn't get lost in answering these questions and relating historical facts. Let the reader decide.
Tallahassee Higgins book. Read 59 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Out of sight, out of mind." That's what Tallahassee Higgins's ... It's a good book. Mary Downing Hahn was one of my favorite authors growing up. This book is a little frustrating in that EVERY adult seems to take Talley's mother's mistakes out on poor 12 year old Talley. I'm sure that there are some adults who would do that, but surely not this many! ...more. Top Tallahassee Landmarks: See reviews and photos of sights to see in Tallahassee, Florida on Tripadvisor. Which places provide the best sights & landmarks in Tallahassee for couples? These are the best places for couples seeking sights & landmarks in Tallahassee Tallahassee Museum - 3945 Museum Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32310 - Rated 4.6 based on 452 Reviews "Beautiful nature trails with wonderful wildlife habitats... See more of Tallahassee Museum on Facebook. Log In. or Create New Account. See more of Tallahassee Museum on Facebook. Log In. Forgot account?