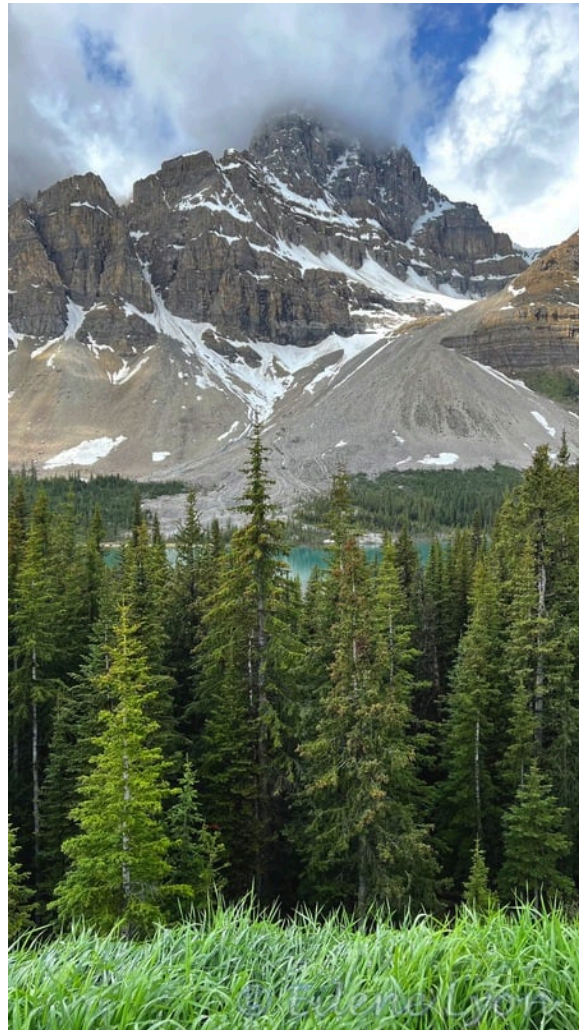




## How to Make a Small Problem Big



*Take on difficulties while they are still easy...If you agree too easily, you will be little trusted.* Verse 63, Tao Te Ching

*Act before things exist; manage them before there is disorder.* Verse 64, Tao Te Ching

Sometimes I wonder why I need to keep learning certain lessons over and over. It's the old 5P saying: Prior planning prevents pitiful performance.

Last fall, I agreed with a neighbor to be a "test case" for sharing space in her quarter-acre garden, a pseudo-community garden. It's fenced to keep deer out, large and level. I live on a steep wooded slope—shady, with little flat space for gardening.

When spring came, we jumped right into the project, without first discussing our individual expectations, and how the project would be organized fairly. I helped out preparing some of the beds and we set one aside for my flower cutting garden.

I expected my own set-aside space for growing squash and cucumbers. When, instead, she made these joint projects, I said nothing contrary. *Go along to get along*, I thought to myself. I did not foresee the consequences for not expressing my expectations.

We all have our particular way of doing things, and at first, her way was fine with me. But my way was not at all fine with her. Pretty soon, she felt I needed to be "managed" to be sure I did things her way.

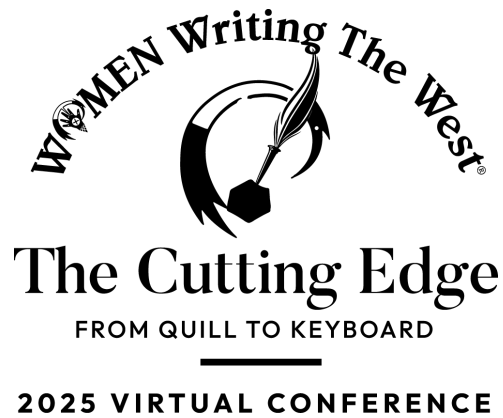
My goal in gardening is "flowers, food, and fun," not being told how to do every little thing and being criticized for "doing it wrong."

I failed to express my concerns and desires before we headed into this joint venture. We've agreed to disagree and go our separate ways next year. It could have gone so differently.

*Eilene*

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## Reviews and Event News



### Upcoming Events

**Presentation: *Using Zotero to Organize Research and Create Citations.*** I will be demonstrating the new version of Zotero for saving and organizing research material; annotating PDFs and websites; and inserting footnotes, endnotes and bibliographies.

This presentation is part of the 2025 Women Writing the West Virtual Conference. You do not need to be a member to attend the conference! You can register at <https://www.womenwritingthewest.org/conference/>

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On Writing

**Begin in the Middle, End, or Anywhere**



It took eight years to research and write my first book. The second was done in 13 months. Figuring out how to handle a large project is part of the process of becoming an author.

I read that Kate Moore, author of *Radium Girls* and *The Woman They Could Not Silence*, does all her research first. She keeps no paper and all the information is stored in a digital timeline. When the research is done, she creates her outline and begins writing. Very impressive!

Other historians swear by writing-as-you-go. That tends to work better for me. A ton of research goes into creating any book based on factual information, fiction and nonfiction alike. It's easy to forget information you gathered many months ago. Therefore, after focusing research on a particular piece of the story, I write a draft to get the information into a narrative format.

It doesn't matter what order these bits are written down. Choose the section that is calling to you at that time and work on it. The final organization can come later. The idea is just to get into the flow of the project and not let it overwhelm you.

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# Popular Blog Posts Last Quarter on Myricopia.com



## **A Metes-and-Bounds Tool**



## **Busybody Takes a Break**



## **A Case of Bastardy**

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On Gardening

## **Grow a Cutting Garden**





As I mentioned in my opening piece, one thing I planted this year was a cutting garden. On one end I put zinnias and a seed mixture of perennial blooms good for cutting. Then decorative sunflowers (seeds), gladioluses (bulbs), and finally, dahlias (roots).

Unfortunately, pocket gophers ate all but one zinnia. A little over half the gladioluses put up shoots (whether they will flower is still up in the air). Only two of five dahlias came up. The good news is that despite these set-backs, there are a ton of flowers.

Every few days, I go cut a large handful and refresh four or five vases that I have going around the house. Nothing makes me smile like having fresh flowers in the room! I like not buying them and they're more environmentally friendly. I can even put them in my compost, since they have not been sprayed with anything.

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On Genealogy

## Stories from Photos

Researching family photos is a great way to develop family history stories. One of my hobbies is buying old portraits from antique stores that have personal identifying information. I research the subjects, write a blog about their lives, and do my best to get the original photos into the hands of relatives.

I have a large collection of photos of my ancestors and relatives. I asked my uncle to tell a story about this photograph of his mother (my paternal grandmother) with this car. He wrote a full page about this new family vehicle, and about the home they were living in at the time.

*Do you have any great stories that came from researching a family photo?*

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