



Interview Questions

Before the interview put a star or number next to the most important questions that you need answered first, in case you run out of time or the interviewee runs out of energy.

Below are suggestions to ask. Feel free to improvise. You are looking for information and items that help tell your ancestors life story. Put a priority on when and where for life events such as birth, marriage, and death... and copy/photograph documents whenever possible. In some cases, you might start with a tree chart so you're clear on who is who in the family structure.

When you get home, polish your notes immediately and catalog everything you acquired along with noting where you got the information/artifacts/documents.

Who are you interviewing? _____

Where are you during this interview? _____

Date of Interview: _____

About the Person You are Interviewing

When and where were you born? _____

Full names & nicknames? _____

Where did you grow up during your childhood? _____

Do you remember your home address growing up? _____

Where did you go to school (elementary, middle, and high schools)?

What holidays were your favorite? _____

Did you experience any natural or manmade disasters? (Earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards, fires, etc.) _____

Extra Notes:



About the Person You are Interviewing (Continued)

- Do you hold any degrees? _____
- What did you want to be growing up? _____
- Occupation? _____
- What was the weather like where you grew up? _____
- What was your earliest memory? _____
- How old were you when you left home? _____
- When and where did you marry? _____
- Were you in the military? _____
 - What branch? _____
 - What division or unit? _____
 - When and where did you enlist? _____
 - When & where were you discharged? _____
 - Peacetime or wartime? _____
 - Where did you serve? _____
 - What was your job in the service? _____
 - What rank? _____

Extra Notes:

Parents (of the person you are interviewing)

- Who was your father/mother? _____
- Where/when were they born? _____
- What was it like where they grew up? _____
- Did they go to school? If so, where? _____
- Did either of your parents serve in the military? _____
 - If so, where/when? _____
 - Did they fight in a war? _____
 - What branch? _____
 - What rank? _____
- What were your parent's occupations? _____
 - If farmers, what kind of crops or livestock did they raise?

- Did your parents go to school? If so, where? _____
- Did they move residence? _____
 - Where/when did they live? _____
 - If they moved, why? _____
- Extra Notes:

Grandparents -Father's Side (Continued)

- Who was your fathers-father?

- Where/when were they born? _____

- Who was your fathers-mother?

- Where/when were they born? _____

- Did they go to school? If so, where? _____

- Did either serve in the military? _____

- If so, where/when? _____

- Did they fight in a war? _____

- What branch? _____

- What rank? _____

- What were their occupations? _____

- If farmers, what kind of crops or livestock did they raise?

- Extra Notes:

Grandparents -Father's Side (Continued)

Did your grandparents go to school? If so, where?

Did they move residence? _____

Where/when did they live? _____

If they moved, why? _____

When and where did they die? (If deceased) _____

What was the cause of death? _____

Where are they buried? _____

Where they immigrants? _____

If so, where did they come from? _____

Do you know where/when they arrived? _____

Do you know when and from what port they left? _____

Extra Notes:

Grandparents - Mother's Side

- Who was your mothers-father? _____
 - Where/when were they born? _____
- Who was your mothers-mother? _____
 - Where/when were they born? _____
- Did they go to school? If so, where? _____
- Did either serve in the military? _____
 - If so, where/when? _____
 - Did they fight in a war? _____
 - What branch? _____
 - What rank? _____
- What were their occupations? _____
 - If farmers, what kind of crops or livestock did they raise?

- Did your grandparents go to school? If so, where?

Extra Notes:

Grandparents - Mother's Side (Continued)

- Did they move residence? _____
 - Where/when did they live? _____
 - If they moved, why? _____

- When and where did they die? (If deceased) _____
 - What was the cause of death? _____
 - Where are they buried? _____

- Where they immigrants? _____
 - If so, where did they come from? _____
 - Do you know where/when they arrived? _____
 - Do you know when and from what port they left? _____

More Family History

- Anything else you want to share?

- DNA Tests?

Extra Notes:

Artifacts

- Is there a family bible?
- Do you have old pictures of the ancestors?
- Family heirlooms that are important to the family history?
- Military memorabilia? (Medals, flags, uniforms, journals)
- Old jewelry, old clocks, attic trunk, quilts?
- Journals, diaries, or scrapbooks?
- Grandpa's tools?
- Grandma's sewing kit?

Documents

- Birth, Marriage, Death, Adoption, or Divorce papers?
- Military discharge, pension papers?
- Family histories?
- Digital archives?
- School records?
- Funeral notices, memorials, burial records?

Extra Notes:
