

Typical Questions for Family History Interview

Where did you live when you were growing up? How did your family come to live there? Were there other family members in the area? Who?

What was your family religion? What church or synagogue, if any, did you attend?

What kinds of family traditions did you have?

- Holidays
- Birthdays
- Family dinners / traditional foods & recipes

What older relatives do you remember, and what do you remember about them?

- Nicknames
- Where they lived
- Any traditions associated with them

What family stories have you heard about

- your parents?
- your grandparents?
- more distant relatives?

What stories have you heard about the European (or other) origins of your family members and their immigration to America?

What is the history of your family surname? In particular, what do you know about changes in spelling and underlying reasons?

Is there a naming tradition in your family? (Example: giving the firstborn son the name of his father or grandfather)

Has your family passed down any special heirlooms, Bibles, photos or other memorabilia, including scrapbooks or newspaper clippings?

What values do your family find most important? For example, does your family tend to strongly value education, faith, work ethic, patriotism . . . ?