

YOUR STORY . . .

It is always fun to find out about our ancestors; who they were, where they were from, where they lived, etc. But it is even more fun to find out the day to day things about how they lived. We love to hear what kind of car that Dad drove to the prom, when and where Grandma met Grandpa, what their house was like, what they did all day, where they hung out at night without TV, if they went on vacation, where and when family traditions started, what countries our great-great-grandparents came from, etc. Now is your chance to tell your story to your great-great-grandchildren.

There isn't any Wrong thing to include. Just think what you would like to hear from your ancestors. That's what you should write down for your future generations. You might even tell about a funny family event, your ambitions, what it is like living in the 90's, or what it was like in the 40's, the cars you've owned, what you thought of Regan, if you had a swimming pool, or just anything. You might share your impressions of other family members like grandma's baking abilities, etc. It's your story. Remember to include dates and places. It would also be nice to include a photo of yourself and a copy of any interesting documents you might have; a newspaper clipping of grandpa's promotion, great grandma's marriage license, her grandfathers love letter to her grandma during the Civil War . . .you get the idea. It's your chance to write history. On the next pages are suggestions you may find helpful. Please add more pages if you run out of room.

Note: If you are entering information on a deceased relative, just try to answer what you know about a person from personal knowledge. We all would love to know that grandpa hated Nixon, or grandma never told anybody except you that she hated cooking, or that she use to sneak out of the house at night when she was a teenager.

If you have access to a Microcassette tape recorder, you might consider using one to record your remembrances. It is much easier than writing, it's much more fun, and if you are like me, you can talk a lot faster than you can write. A word of warning . . . we recently recorded my mother's Family History and it took over 12 hours at an hour, or two, at a time. Although that hardly seems time enough to tell your life story . . . it took more than 6 microcassette tapes. But, we had such a great time remembering things that hadn't been thought of in years. That is the fun part. And, now, her ancestors can share in her life, though most will never meet her.

Personal History (for Adults)

FULL NAME _____

Fathers Full Name _____

Mothers Full Name _____

Your Date & Place Of Birth _____

Full Names Of (4) Grandparents(birthplaces & dates). _____

Occupation _____ Religion _____

Date Of Marriage _____ Where _____

Current Spouse - Name & Birthdate _____

Former Spouses: (full name & date of marriage) _____

Length of Marriage: _____

Former Spouse: (full name & date of marriage) _____

Length of Marriage: _____

College: _____

Military Service _____ Years _____

Places Lived (From When To When) _____

Full Names Of Children And Dates Of Birth _____

Full Names and Birthdates of Siblings: _____

Medical (Hereditary Diseases, Etc) _____

If Person Is Deceased . . .

Cause Of Death _____

Date Of Death _____ Place Of Burial _____

Your Current Address _____

Current Phone / E-Mail _____

PERSONAL MEMORIES AND EVENTS OF

FULL NAME _____

Why were you given your name?

Were you named after somebody else?

Did you have a nickname as you were growing up?

If you did, what was it and why did they call you that?

Have you had other nicknames as an adult?

What do family members call you now?

The questions below are only a few suggestions of things that would be interesting to future generations to hear about. If you are reminded of other things that are not included below, feel free to include them on a separate paper. If you need more room to answer any of the questions below, use a blank sheet of paper, write the question number you are answering and then continue with your comment.

AS A CHILD:

1. What was the community like where you grew up?
2. What was the house like where you grew up? (Size, rooms, plumbing, lighting, style, modern conveniences, etc.)
3. What was your daily routine like?
4. Where did you get groceries?
5. Who cooked your food, cleaned your house?
6. Where did you go to school, and how did you get there?
7. Special talents you had. What were you good at?
8. Did you have pets?
9. Favorite TV or radio shows
10. Favorite performers, actors, entertainers

11. Favorite music, songs, singers, groups
12. What did you do for fun after school, on weekends, in summer?
13. What new invention or possession did your family purchase that you remember as a big event?
14. What were holidays like?
15. Valentine's Day?
16. April Fool's Day?
17. Easter?
18. May Day?
19. 4th of July?
20. Labor Day?
21. Halloween?
22. Thanksgiving?
23. Christmas?
24. New Years?
25. What were your childhood birthdays like? Parties? Guests? Presents?
26. What cars do you remember having as a child? (or other transportation)
27. Where did your family go for a vacation or memorable trip?
28. Remember a big National or local event you heard about or saw and how you felt or reacted; flood, fire, Presidential assassination, war, etc.
29. What were your grandparents like?
 - A. Did you visit them? Or Aunts and Uncles?
 - B. Who was the oldest person you can remember in your family? What do you remember about them?
30. What did your grandparents do for a living?

31. Memorable stories you grandparents told of their life?

32. What were your parents like?

33. What did your parents do for a living?

34. Memorable stories they told of their lives?

35. What favorite toys, games, hobbies did you have?

A. Was there a chore you really hated doing as a child?

36. How many years did you attend school?

37. Did you date? Where did you go? Types of things you did?

38. Did you attend the Prom? Where, what you wore, vehicle you went in, etc.

39. What was graduation like? Who came, was there a party?

40. What jobs did you have while in school and after graduation.

YOUR MIDDLE YEARS:

41. Did you live at home?

42. Where did you work? What was your job? How did you get there?

43. How and when did you meet your spouse? How long did you date?

44. Talk about your courtship

45. What was the proposal like?

46. How long was the engagement?

47. What did your parents think of your fiance?

48. How did you plan your wedding?

49. Where was the wedding? What was the church like, how many people, reception, photos, transportation, weather, etc.

50. Where did you honeymoon?

51. Where did you live after wedding? Describe.

A. How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?

52. Talk about expecting first child; surprise, excitement, reactions, financial situation, showers, preparations, days leading up to birth, the birth itself, taking baby home, having new baby in house.

53. Different jobs you had through working years, promotions.

54. Different houses you had, cars you purchased.

55. Special talents you had. What were you good at?

56. Daily family routine.

57. Vacations and trips.

58. Inventions, purchases that were memorable.

59. Was there any health problems?

60. National events that you remember and how you felt or reacted; man landing on moon, Kennedy's death, WWII, Kennedy's death, Vietnam war, the 60's, Presidents you hated/liked, etc.

61. Other memorable events you had personal feelings about or opinions on; local, national, political, etc.

62. Sad or tragic events

63. As an adult with your own family, how did you celebrate all the holidays listed previous?

64. Family traditions.

65. Favorite music, singers, groups, TV shows, movies, actors, entertainers

LATER YEARS

66. When did you retire?

67. Where did you live?

68. What big changes occurred?

69. What was your daily routine?

70. Hobbies, new interests?

71. Travel (where you've been, favorite places, what you did, where you want to go)

72. If you could go back through time and choose a year to have the world remain the same, what year would you choose. Why?

SECOND MARRIAGE

73. If desired, talk about the end of the first marriage. Why, when, how it affected your life emotionally, financially, physically, what you did next.

74. Did you move? Change jobs, have responsibility of children?

75. Did you remarry? When? How did you meet? Where did you live?

76. Did you have children?

Include answers to any of the previous questions, for this second marriage. Using the same corresponding question numbers, put them on a separate paper which clearly identifies it as the second marriage. If the second marriage ended, and there was a third, use the same procedure.

GENERAL

77. Your biggest, unfulfilled dream?

78. What you want your great grandchildren to know about your life and how you lived.

79. What things do you wish you knew about your ancestors?

80. If you had Ten Million Dollars . . . how would you spend it?

81. What do you think the world will be like in 2075?

82. If you could . . . would you visit the world for a day in 2075?

83. What were the hardest choices that you ever had to make? Do you feel like you made the right choices?

84. Have you ever had an experience that you would consider to be super-natural or psychic? Did you ever know something was going to happen before it actually did?

