

## Interviewing people for genealogy research: 10 questions to ask

### Remember:

- Interview relatives and friends of all ages, not necessarily older relatives. Interviewees can be siblings and cousins, too.
- Interview people singly or in groups.
- In-person interviews may gather the richest information because you have an opportunity to ask follow-up questions.
- Share the questions with the interviewee before the interview. He/She will have time to think about the questions and recall important memories.
- Get permission to:
  - Record the conversation.
  - Take a photo of the interviewee for your documentation
  - Make copies or take photos of documents that the interviewee shows you.

### 10 Questions

1. Where did you grow up and what was it like?
2. What were your parents' and siblings' names and birthdates? Were you an oldest, youngest or middle child?
3. What kind of jobs did your parents do?
4. As a child, what were your chores, and what did you do for fun?
5. What are your happiest family memories?
6. How did you meet your spouse?
7. What do you remember about your grandparents?
8. Do you know any stories about ancestors immigrating to America? Where did they come from?
9. Do you still have connections to anyone in the native country?
10. Do you have any old photos, papers or a family Bible you could show me?