

# INTERVIEWING A FAMILY MEMBER

Interviews with Family Members can give researcher valuable information on the family tree, and genealogical background. Be prepared with questions like the following when interviewing a family member.

1. When and where were you born?
2. Where did you live through your childhood and how did your family come to live there?
3. Did you have any family that lived close by? Who?
4. Describe your childhood home; do you remember the street you lived on? Do you have pictures?
5. What is your earliest childhood memory?
6. Where did you attend elementary school? High School? College?
7. What was your religion growing up? Were you affiliated with any congregation?
8. Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper? Do you have a copy of the article?
9. Were you at an Event that was mentioned in the newspaper, even though you may not have been mentioned?
10. What were the most relevant world events in your lifetime? How did they affect you and your family?
11. Were you married? When? Where? To whom? Tell me about your wedding.
12. What is the full name of your spouse? Siblings? Parents?
13. Were you in the Military? When? Where? What military rank?
14. Who is the oldest relative you can remember? What do you remember about them?
15. Do you know any history about your family surname?
16. Is there a naming tradition in your family? Such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?
17. Does the family have any oral traditions? Stories passed down about parents? Grandparents?
18. Do you know of any famous or infamous relatives in your family?
19. Did you know, or meet any famous people?
20. What was the most exciting thing you can remember happening in your life?
21. Can you describe family heirlooms that have been passed down in your family?
22. What is one thing you want people to remember about you or your family?
23. What was the greatest invention during your lifetime?