

Beginning Genealogical Research



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DEATH DATE AND PLACE _____

This is you...
You're number ONE!

Who do you think you are? 

Before you start your research, jot down a few lines about who you *think* you are.

I am _____

and _____

and _____

My family is _____

and _____

and _____

My people are from _____

and _____

and _____

We celebrate _____

and _____

We like _____

and _____

We do things together, like _____

and _____

I'll be surprised to discover that _____

and _____

Typical Questions for Family History Interview

→ Important reminder: Some of these questions are really personal and may feel uncomfortable. If that happens, keep moving. Do **not** feel like you need to answer any or all of these questions. Tell the story that is important to **you**. ←

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, if any, religion or faith did your family have?

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?

Are you adopted? What is your adoption story? Do you and your family share the same ancestry? Do you and your family bring the different cultural experiences together?

What stories have you heard about your family's origins and your family member's presence in America?

What is the history of your family's last name? In particular, what do you know about changes in spelling and underlying reasons? Do you get your last name from your mother, father, or is it a combination?

Is there a naming tradition in your family? (Example: giving the firstborn son the name of his father or grandfather). Who are you named after? Is there a story about that?

Has your family passed down any special keepsakes, heirlooms, books, 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, etc.?

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Information about you	
Full name	
Place and date of birth	
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary • Middle/High school 	
Other autobiographical information: music, sports, honors, etc.	
The people who care for you (near and far)	
Were you adopted? Do you know your biological parents?	
Biological mother's name and date of birth	
Biological father's name and date of birth	
Were you raised by someone else (grandparent, aunt/uncle, etc.)?	
What are their names and dates of birth?	
Parent/Step-Parent/Caregiver's full name 	
Place and date of birth	
Place and date of death	
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School • College (degree and year of graduation) 	
Military Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service rank and branch 	
Place and date of marriage	
Other autobiographical information: employment, honors, etc.	
Family anecdotes and stories:	

Parent/Step-Parent/Caregiver's full name	
Place and date of birth	
Place and date of death	
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School • College (degree and year of graduation) 	
Military Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service rank and branch 	
Place and date of marriage	
Other autobiographical information: employment, honors, etc.	
Family anecdotes and stories:	
Parent/Step-Parent/Caregiver's full name	
Place and date of birth	
Place and date of death	
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School • College (degree and year of graduation) 	
Military Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service rank and branch 	
Place and date of marriage	
Other autobiographical information: employment, honors, etc.	
Family anecdotes and stories:	

Parent/Step-Parent/Caregiver's full name	
Place and date of birth	
Place and date of death	
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School • College (degree and year of graduation) 	
Military Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service rank and branch 	
Place and date of marriage	
Other autobiographical information: employment, honors, etc.	
Family anecdotes and stories:	

Any other relevant information: