*Your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_*

 **Conducting a Family History Interview**

**Keywords**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Who is the Kin Keeper in your family? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Don’t know who the Kin Keeper is? Who will you ask for this information? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What types of information can PEOPLE give you when researching family history?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

![C:\Documents and Settings\kziller\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\I6L6Q7N9\MC900359805[1].wmf]() **Family History Interview Tips**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Keep it Formal* | *Be Prepared* |
|  |  |

**Important Dates!**

* Have your 5 personal interview questions written by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Reach out to your Kin Keeper to schedule your interview by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Complete your interview by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Your Oral History Interview Checklist**

* Schedule a time in advance. This gives everyone a chance to prepare.
* Check to make sure you’re confident in using your audio recording device. Practice ahead of time and do a sound check to make sure it’s working properly.
* Review the list of interview questions ahead of time and either share them with your relative, or give them an idea of what you want to ask them.
* Ask questions that encourage more than simple 'yes' or 'no' answers. Try to elicit facts, feelings, stories and descriptions.
* Show interest. Take an active part in the dialogue without dominating it. Learn to be a creative listener.
* Use props whenever possible. Old photographs, favorite old songs and treasured items may bring memories flooding back.
* Don't push for answers. Your relative may not wish to speak ill of the dead or may have other reasons for not wanting to share. Move on to something else.
* Use your prepared questions as a guideline, but don't be afraid to let your relative go off on a tangent. They may have many things to say that you never thought to ask!
* Don't interrupt or attempt to correct your relative; this can end an interview in a hurry!
* When you are done, be sure to thank your relative for his/her time.

Source: Ideas taken from How to Interview a Relative by Kimberly Powell
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/oralhistory/ht/interview.htm

*Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Name of person you’re interviewing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Relation to you: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Place of interview: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Interview questions:**

***Part 1: Your childhood***

1. What is your full name?
2. When and where were you born?
3. What is your earliest childhood memory?
4. Who is the most memorable relative from your childhood? Why?
5. Who is the oldest relative you can remember? Describe him/her.
6. What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?
7. Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable?

***Part 2: Your family tree***

1. How did your family come to live in the town where you grew up?
2. Were there other family members living in the area? Who?
3. Describe the personalities of your close family members.
4. Do you know if any of your ancestors were immigrants? If yes, who were they and where did they come from?
5. Does your family have any special traditions? Who started those traditions?
6. What do you know about your family surname?
7. Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?
8. What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?
9. Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?
10. Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family?

***Part 3: Your focus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Write 5 interview questions on your chosen topic.***

19.

20.

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22.

23.

Source: Ideas taken from Fifty Questions for Family History Interviews by Kimberly Powell
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/oralhistory/a/interview.htm