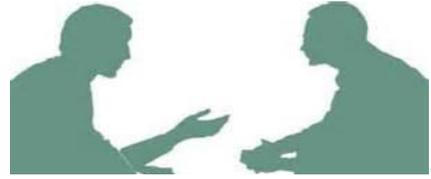


Ideas for Focused Genealogy Interview Questions

- What is your full name? Do you know why your parents selected that name for you? Are you named after a relative?
- What do you know about your family surname?
- Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always naming the first born son after his paternal grandfather or first daughter after her maternal grandmother?
- When and where were you born?
- How did your family come to live there?
- Where did your parents come from and where did they live before you were born? How about your grandparents?
- How many different places did your family live when you were growing up?
- Did other family members also live in that area? Who were they and where did they live?
- Did anyone other than your parents and brothers and sisters live with you? Who were they and why were they there? How long did they stay? Where did they go when they left your home?
- How many brothers and sisters do your parents have? Do you know their names? How about their spouses and children?
- Who was the oldest living relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?
- What relatives do you remember visiting as a child and where did they live?
- What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?
- Are there any stories you have been told about your family origin?
- Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family? Can you share any newspaper clippings about them?
- Did you go to church when you were growing up? What church did you and your family attend and where was it located?
- Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family? Do you know where they are now? Can you share them with me?
- What did your family most enjoy doing together? Do you know why?
- If your family took vacations, where did they visit and was there a special reason they went there?
- What was the most interesting occupation you can remember a relative having? Did anyone else in the family share this occupation? Do you know where they learned this skill? Where did they live?
- What are some family nicknames that you remember and to whom did they belong? Do you know how they got their nickname?
- Do you remember any tragedies in your family when you were growing up? Can you share information about them with me?
- What foreign languages are/were spoken in your family and who is fluent in them?
- What early funerals, baptisms or weddings do you remember as a child?
- Where are your parents buried? Your grandparents? Do your relatives have a family cemetery? Where is it?
- Do you know where other family members are buried?



Use your imagination. Ask open-ended questions focusing on the details you are targeting.