

Family History Interview Questions

Immigration and Travel

- Where was your country of origin and how long did you live there?
- How much school did you complete in your home country?
- What was your last address in your home country?
- What was your last memory of that place?
- What did you take with you to the new location?
- What transportation did you take and who accompanied you on this trip?
- What was your arrival destination and did someone meet you there?
- Where did you live and what influenced that decision?

Language and Community

- If you kept in touch with anyone in your home country, what type of communication did you use (letters, prepaid phone cards, etc)?
- What was your expectation vs reality of the new location?
- Did you have to learn a new language at the new location?
- Did you still speak your native language at home?
- Was there a large population of folks from your home country?
- Were you able to be yourself or did you assimilate into the majority culture?
- What was your experience with neighbors in your community?
- Were you a member of any community, religious or cultural organizations?

Careers and Children

- What was your first job in the new location?
- Describe how you found this job (newspaper, friend, applied on-site, etc).
- Were you able to make ends meet or did you work more than one job?
- What transportation did you take to get to your job?
- If you had children, who provided childcare for them while you worked?
- What hopes and dreams did you have for your child(ren)?
- Have you traveled back to your home country?
- Would you like to retire in your new location or in your home country?

Traditions and Food

- Describe a tradition your family had.
- Were you able to continue this tradition in your new location?
- Did you create new traditions in your new location?
- What holidays or special occasions were most meaningful to you?
- What was your favorite food?
- Was there a market in your new location to buy this food or the ingredients to make it?
- Did you have to adapt recipes due to a lack of ingredients?
- What foods in your new location did you like or dislike?