

## Oral History Family History Question Template

**Introduction:**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the interviewer).

I'm the \_\_\_\_\_ (title or descriptive of interviewer if relevant) and I am here today \_\_\_\_\_ (date of interview) with \_\_\_\_\_ (full name of the interviewee) at the \_\_\_\_\_ (location, town) Montana.

This history is being recorded on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the organization) and is sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the organization).

**General:**

These questions are considered icebreakers.

Tell me about your life today?

What are your current favorite past times?

With whom do you spend your time?

How old are you?

**Childhood:**

What is your birth date?

Where were you born?

Did you grow up in the same town as your birth?

How many siblings did you have?

What were their names (as children)?

Where were you in the birth order-?

What was it like growing up in your home town?

Did you have time to play as a child? If yes, what did you do?

Did the children in your family have chores they were responsible for?  
What was your job?

Did you have any hobbies or interests you enjoyed or did you belong to any clubs?

Tell me about some of your fond memories as a child

Did anything happen in your childhood that was challenging? If yes, how did you and your family handle the challenge?

**Your Parents:**

What are/were your parents' names and where were they born?

How would you describe your parents parenting style?

What were your parents' view on education?

How did the division of labor work between your parents?

Who disciplined the children?

What are some fond memories about your mother and dad?

What are some fond memories with your family?

**Your Grandparents:**

Tell me about your grandparents. Do you know their names and places of birth?  
Start with mother's parents.  
Now tell me about your father's parents.

What were their occupations?

Were your grandparents alive during your childhood?

How did they influence your childhood?

Can you share some fond memories of your grandparents?

**Grade School:**

Where did you go to grade school?

How did you get to school every day?

Tell me about school.

What were your favorite classes?

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities during grade school?

Can you share some fond memories from that time?

**High School or post Grade School:**

Use biographical data to determine which set of questions to ask.

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**High School:**

Where did you go to high school?

How did you get to school every day?

Tell me about school.

What were your favorite classes?

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities during high school?

Do you have some fond memories of the time you would like to share?

What did you do after you graduated from high school? (ask relevant follow-up questions regarding trade school, college, military or work)

**Post Grade School:**

I know you did not attend high school, can you tell me why? What did you do?

How did you get to work?

Tell me about work.

Did you enjoy it? What did you enjoy most?

During this time of your life what were your recreational activities? What did you do for fun?

Do you have some fond memories of this time you would like to share?

Did this time lead to a career?

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**Married Life and Family:**

How and where did you meet your spouse?

Tell me some fond memories from your courtship.

What was the date and location of your wedding?

Tell me about your early life as a young couple.

Describe the division of labor between you and your spouse, who was responsible for which chores?

What were your favorite recreational activities during this time?

Tell me some fond memories during your early years as a married couple?

Did you have children? How many children do you have?

Can you tell me their names, dates of birth and where they were born?

What were your parenting philosophies?

What activities did you enjoy as a family?

Did your children have chores? If so, how were chores divided among your children?

Were there any locations that were special to your family? What made these places special?

Were there any significant events that impacted your life during this period? If yes, what were they and how did you handle them?

Do you have some fond memories of your children to share?

Can you complete this statement: Raising and parenting children is the \_\_\_\_\_?

**Your Grandchildren:**

Do you have grandchildren? Great grandchildren? Great-great grandchildren?  
How many of each?

What are their names?

Do they live in Montana? If not, where do they live?

What are some of your fond memories of being a grandparent?

What is one of the values or lessons you taught or hope to teach your grandchildren?

**Legacy:**

What legacy did your parents and or grandparents leave for you?

What legacy do you want to leave for the next generation?

How do you want to be remembered?