

Interview format – flexible (saved under M:/research/biography)

Interview conducted by: _____

Thank you _____ for agreeing to do this interview.

Let me start by saying today's date _____ and identifying our meeting place:

First part is to establish who you are and basic background.

_____, can you give us your full name and date of birth?

Name _____ DOB _____

Birth place _____ If immigrant, when? _____

Mother: _____ Father: _____

Any siblings?

Your education?

Occupation:

Military history? If not, but lived through war time, what do you remember?

Married?

Children?

Volunteer organizations or affiliations?

Next part will help us understand what life was like when you grew up.

Describe the home where you grew up. How many rooms? Floors? Indoor plumbing? How was it heated? Did you share a bedroom? What was a typical meal? Breakfast, lunch, supper? Who did what chores? Did you grow your own food? Bake your own bread?

What did you do for transportation? How often would you travel? How far? Did summer travel differ from winter?

Where did you go to school? How far away? How did you get there? Tell us about the classroom, your teachers, school friends. What subjects? Were you assigned homework?

What did you do for recreation? Did you play sports, attend dances, movies? Play cards?

How did you celebrate holidays? What food was served? Did you get together with family, friends? Did your family play host? Or did you go elsewhere? Any special traditions?

How did you communicate with others? What was mail service like?

Did you have a phone? Radio? Television? Computer?

What was your family's expectation of you? For chores? For school? For an occupation? Were you required to attend church?

How old were you when you first dated? Did you marry? How old? Children?

What was your first home like? First automobile? First job?

How would you describe your community?

How did yesterday's mores differ from today's? Politer? Friendlier? Less judgemental?

This last part will help us get a feel for who you are.

What was the best part of growing up when you did?

If you could go back and say something to your parents, what would it be?

Is there anything you would do differently in your life? Any regrets?

What was the hardest thing you ever did?

What is the best thing that you ever did? What would you say is your greatest accomplishment?

What message do you want to leave your children/grandchildren/young people today?

Anything on your bucket list that you still want to complete?

If you had 20 more years, what would you do with it?

Is the world a better or worse place today? Why?

Any last comments you would leave with us?