



Family History Interview Tips

- ▶ **Prepare/Plan Ahead**

Have a list of information you're hoping to get, questions you want to ask, topics to cover.

- ▶ **Have your recording method planned out and prepared**

The interview will go smoother and be more productive if you don't fumble while you're talking.

- ▶ **Call ahead**

Give your family member time to think about their family and anecdotes about them.

- ▶ **Start with a family photo or story**

Show a photo of several members of your family to jog your family member's memory.

- ▶ **Ask open-ended questions**

Instead of "Do you have brothers and sisters?", ask "Who were your brothers and sisters? Are they older or younger?"

- ▶ **Toward the end, ask "closed" questions for more specific details**

"When was your brother born? When and where did he die?"

- ▶ **Lead the interview**

Keep the conversation focused, but listen for things you want to ask more questions about.

- ▶ **Follow up after the interview**

Either transcribe the interview, or listen to it a few times to take notes about family names, places they've lived, or when they were born.