

Family Elders' Interviews, Memoirs, Memories, Fun Stories

Ideas for questions topics for Written or Oral Recorded Interviews - Histories / Memoirs
If you prefer to record first, please test sound quality and volume first, and speak clearly & slowly, so that you can easily transcribe also and keep in paper form.

See page two for formats and methods of sharing.

Capture stories from our Elders of "the old days", as far back as possible. Memories of their Grandparents, life in Minnesota, the Great Depression Years, WWII, life in **the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s**

IMPORTANT: as they mention memories, ALWAYS GET THE YEAR & LOCATION

Sample Questions to ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, cousins, age 70-100+.

- What are your most vivid memories of life, events, influential people in your life going back to the **1920s through the 1940s** or 50s. The depression years?
- What did you know of our German SCHMID immigrants: Joseph, Benedict, Maria
- What did you know of our Dutch VOS Immigrants Joannes, Anton, Reinhard, Peter John, Elizabeth, Agnes, Leonard,
- Memories of your elders - what they were like, what stands out in your memory about them:
 - your Great Grandparents
 - your Grandparents
 - your Parents, Aunts, Uncles
- Memories & Stories about siblings, cousins. Food, Transportation, etc
- Memories of school days? School building? Sports?
- **Stories of life back then? Water? Electricity? Heat? In town? At home? on the Farm?**
- How old were you the first time you drove? What year and model of vehicle?
- What was your first job?
- When, where, how you meet your spouse?
- Where were you on Dec 7, 1941?
- Memories of wartime? At home or abroad.
- What did you listen to on the Radio?
- What music did you and your sweetheart dance to?

Fun, Happy, Funny, Interesting, or Sad Stories, no matter how small or large – Anything you can think of - we want them all.

For example: we have a cute story about my Uncle Bob & my dad Edwin sneaking our Uncle Francis into an Officer's Club in London in the 1940s. Someone could have been court-martialed had they been caught!
Or, Viola's Red Cross Service when she was in Hawaii assigned to the division that later went to Iwo Jima

These will be cherished by us and future generations. We need to record these memories and stories before they are lost!

How to record Memories, Stories, Memoirs

Written and saved in a Word File. Easy to share

Recorded:

Audio:

- Record with a Smart Phone or other recording device. I used an APP called TapeACall Pro that I downloaded from App Store. Nominal \$. Worked great for recording phone interviews.
- Here are a few of our Oral History recordings
LINK: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hveQOMQ2Fej-PV3yOV-lx2GBBW47gMtZ?usp=sharing>
- Share audio files via Email, upload to Google docs, or similar web storage.

Video:

- Consult a professional for tips and advice.
- Film with a smart phone, or digital video camera
- Beware of very large video files, as these are difficult to share.
- Compress video files if need
- Share by upload to Google Docs or similar web storage, to be shared
- Compress video files and upload them to YouTube for easy sharing
- If you have multiple video clips, they can be grouped together in a YouTube Playlist.

If you have old home movies, or questions, call a professional for ideas. There are a number of ways old movies can be saved, converted, transformed, for easier sharing via web.

Also, old home movies can be audio recorded, put up on youtube along with some photo clips of the old movie.

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