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Sample Questions To Conduct An Oral History Interview

Please tell me your name, your birthdate, our relationship, and where we are.

What was the happiest moment of your life?

Who was the most important person in your life? Can you tell me about him or her?

What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

What are you proudest of in your life?

Can you tell me your name, your age, and who you are?

How long have you lived in _____?

How has it changed over those years?

What was it like when you grew up here/first moved here?

What do you miss most about the way it used to be?

Who are some of the great characters from here?

Do you remember any great stories or legends about our town?

Where did you grow up?

What was it like?

What is your earliest memory?

Who were you parents?

What were your parents like?

Do you have any siblings? What were they like growing up?

Did you have a nickname? How'd you get it?

Who were your best friends? What were they like?

Did you enjoy school?

What would you do for fun?

How would your classmates remember you?

Are you still friends with anyone from that time in your life?

What are your best memories of grade school/high school school?

How did you meet your husband/wife?

How has being a parent changed you?

What do you do for a living?

What did you want to be when you grew up?

What lessons has your work life taught you?

If you could do anything now, what would you do? Why?

Who were your favorite relatives?

Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell you?

What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs?

Were you in the military?

How did war change you?

What lessons did you learn from this time in your life?

Is there anything you wanted to talk about that we didn't get to?

Is there anything we didn't talk about that you would like to add?