

# Interviewing a Relative

*After checking home sources, contact your living relatives and ask some of the following questions:*

1. Where and when were you born? What was happening at the time of your birth?  
What was the name given at birth?
2. What are your parent's names and maiden names? When and where were they born?
3. How many children did your parents have and what were their names?
4. Do you recall when and where your grandparents died? Where are they buried?
5. How did your parents and grandparents earn their living?
6. Do you know any stories they told about what life was like?
7. What religion did your parents or grandparents practice?
8. Do you know the names of the first ancestors who came to America?  
Do you know why they left their homeland to come to America?
9. Where did they live prior to coming to this country? Do you know the name of the town  
or village they live in?
10. Do you know any stories they told about life in their homeland? What were their occupations?
11. Did any family members follow them to America at a later date?
12. Did you ever hear of anyone in your family serving in any wars? What was the soldier's name?
13. Describe some of your family's customs and traditions.
14. Did you ever hear that you were related to anyone famous?
15. Do you know anyone who has a written history of our family?  
At the end of your interview, put the information together and complete pedigree charts and  
family group sheets. If you tape recorded, be sure to label the tape with the name, date and  
be sure to transcribe it.