

Sample questions to ask your grandmother

Identity

- What is your full name?
- When and where were you born?
- When and where have you lived?
- What jobs have you had?
- Are you still working? If so, what do you do?

Dates & Places – When and Where?

- When and where was your husband born?
- Your mother?
- Your father?
- Your husband's mother?
- Your husband's father?
- What about your grandparents –
 - What were their Names?
 - When and where were they born? Married?
 - When and where did they die? Where are they buried?
- Your husband's grandparents –
 - Do you know their Names?
 - Do you know when they were born, when and where they were married?
 - Do you know when they died? Where are they buried?
- Did your parents have brothers or sisters? (Your grandmother's aunts & uncles)
 - Do you know their names?
- Did your grandparents have brothers or sisters? (Her Great aunts & uncles)
 - Do you know their names?

Other Family Members

- Did you (your grandmother) have brothers or sisters?
 - What were their names?
- Did your husband (your grandfather) have brothers or sisters?
 - What were their names?

Marriage(s)

- When were you married?
- Where?
- (If more than one spouse, who were they, and when and where did she marry them?)
- Can you describe your wedding day?
- Any family members who came?
- Do you know when your parents were married?
- Where were they married?
- Any stories about their wedding or engagement?
- What about your grandparents? (Same questions)

Location and Property

- Do you know when your family first came to this country?
- Who was it?
- When?
- Do you know in what port they landed?
- Did anyone ever mention the name of the ship they took passage on?
- Do you know what country they came from?
- Did anyone mention the town they came from?
- Where did they go after arriving in this country?
- Did they ever move again after that?
- Did they own their own land?
- Do you know where they might have owned land?
- Do you have any old deeds or land grants?
- Do you know if anyone in your family ever homesteaded (under the Homestead Act)?
- Did anyone in the family receive a Land Grant, either for military service or otherwise?

Occupation

- What was the family's occupation? (Did your grandmother work? What did her husband do?)
- What was your father's occupation?
- Your grandfathers'?
- Did any of the women work?
- If so, what did they do?

Military

- Did your grandmother's husband serve in the military?
- What branch of service was he in?
- Did any of her brothers or uncles fight in any wars?
- What branch of service?
- Did her father serve in the military?
- Did he fight in any wars?
- What branch of service was he in?
- Her grandfathers? (Same questions)
- Did they tell any stories about their experiences?
- Did they mention where they were stationed?
- Did they mention the names or numbers of their units?
- Do you know if they fought in any battles? Which ones?

Church

- What church do you belong to?
- Have you always been a member of the same church?
- Was your husband a member of the same church? (If not, what church was he affiliated with?)
- Were your parents members of that church?
- Were they active in the church?
- Did anyone ever change their church affiliation?
- Did anyone ever mention whether the family belonged to the same church in the old country?

- Are there any stories about the church, or their activities in it?
- Was anyone a member of a church-related society (e.g., Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella)

Membership in Heritage Societies & other groups

- Are you (your grandmother) a member of any heritage organization? (Like the DAR, Colonial Dames, etc.)
- Do you know if anyone in the family was ever a member of the DAR, the SAR, the Mayflower Descendants, or any other heritage organization?
- Was your husband or father a member of the Masons or any other community organization?
- What Lodge or Chapter?
- Were there any events relating to these Societies or organizations that they talked about?

Memories

- What are some of your childhood memories?
- What kinds of games did you play?
- Are there songs you remember from your childhood?
- What kind of toys did you play with?
- Who made them?
- What sort of entertainment did your family have at home?
 - Storytelling? Music? Crafts?
- Are there special family traditions?
- Family sayings?
- What are your favorite holidays?
- Are there family traditions associated with those holidays?
- Can you describe them?
- Describe the community where you grew up.
 - What was it like?
 - What places and community events stand out in your mind?

Death

- When did your father die?
- Where was he living at the time?
- In what cemetery is he buried?
- When did your mother die?
- Where was she living at the time?
- In what cemetery is she buried?
- What about your grandparents? Do you know where they were living when they died?
- Where are they buried?

Other Stories

- Are there any other stories you remember, that you would like to share?
- Is there anything special that you think I should know, before we close?

Thank You!!!