What ‘s Your Story?

**Gathering Family Immigration History**

The vast majority of the United States population lives here because of immigration. How did you end up living here? By interviewing family members you will learn more about your own family history. Don’t be discouraged if there are some mysteries...there often are.

Attached are some questions that you can ask your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents if you have them! You may also want to ask stepparents, aunts and uncles, or any other close family members. I have included two sets of questions, one focused on family history, the other on personal history. Personal history would be great to ask a grandparent while family history works well for a parent. If possible speak with a relative on both sides of your family.

You should take brief notes while talking with your relatives. Try to maintain the flow of the interview. You may take notes on the sheets provided or in a separate notebook. After the interview, write down a more detailed account of any interesting stories/information that you want to remember. You may also choose to make an audio or video recording of your interview. This is not required but can be a worthwhile thing to do.

Set aside 1-2 hours for your interview. Check my website for interview tips!

Have Fun!!!!!

**Family History Questionnaire**

Questions for your parents and/or grandparents

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1) What are the names of your parents?

2) When and where were they born?  Where do/did they live?

3) What was their home and neighborhood like while growing up?

4) What did they do for a living?

5) Did they have any special interests or talents?

6) Do you have any personal memories of them? Describe.

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1) What are the names of your mother's parents?

2) When and where were they born?  Where do/did they live?

3) What was their home and neighborhood like while growing up?

4) What did they do for a living?

5) Did they have any special interests or talents?

6) Do you have any personal memories of them? Describe.

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1) What are the names of your father's parents?

2) When and where were they born?  Where do/did they live?

3) What was their home and neighborhood like while growing up?

4) What did they do for a living?

5) Did they have any special interests or talents?

6) Do you have any personal memories of them? Describe.

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1) Did you know your grandparents? What were their names?

2) When and where did were they born?  Where do/did they live?

3) What was their home and neighborhood like while growing up?

4) What did they do for a living?

5) Did they have any special interests or talents?

6) Do you have any personal memories of them? Describe.

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1) What do you remember hearing about your great-grandparents?

2) Did you ever see them?

3) Who in your family came to the U.S. from a foreign country?

4) Where did they come from?

5) Why did they leave their home country?

6) How old were they when they immigrated?

7) What modes of transportation did they take?

8) What stories are told in your family about the crossing?

9) Do you have any relatives in foreign countries? Who?

10) Have you ever been to visit/been back to visit? How was it?

11) Are there any traditions that are still practiced in your family that originated in another country?

12) Is there any other information that you would like to share?

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Additional notes

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