Name: Date:

**Ancestry and Family History Interviewing Questions**

**Directions:** Look over the list of interview questions below. Then, find an older relative to interview in person or over the phone. Ask them as many of these questions as you like, **but choose at least 20 answers to write down** on here or on a separate piece of paper. Remember, these questions are not about you, but about the relative you are interviewing.

Name of Relative Interviewed: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth of Relative Interviewed: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Where and when were you born?
2. If you moved to the U.S, to where did you immigrate and why?
3. What is the most enjoyable memory of time spent with your parents, your family?
4. What are some of the most valuable lessons your parents taught you?
5. What type of house did you live in as a child? Other buildings on the same property? How was your home heated?
6. Did you always have electricity? If not, when did you get it? Was it a big deal?
7. What did your father do for a living?
8. Did your mother ever work outside of the home? What did she do?
9. Did you contribute to the family income? How?
10. When did you get your first job outside of the family?
11. How and where did you observe the Jewish holidays?
12. How was your birthday celebrated? What kinds of gifts did you receive?
13. Do you remember any particular blizzards or tornadoes or floods?
14. Did you have a favorite toy?
15. Whom did you admire most when you were young?
16. Where did you go to school? Did you ever attend a one-room schoolhouse?
17. What were your favorite subjects? Least-favorite?
18. Who was your favorite teacher, and why?
19. Do you still know anyone that you went to school with?
20. How did you get to school? If you walked, how far?
21. What do you remember about these walks? Did you walk alone or with friends? Were these walks a hardship in winter?
22. Did you ever miss a long stretch of school because of illness? If so, what did you do to pass the time?
23. What did you do during summer vacations?
24. In high school, were you involved in sports? What were some of the highlights?
25. Were you in the school band? What instrument(s)? Did you continue to play into adulthood?
26. What songs and dances were popular then?
27. What was some of the slang when you were a teenager?
28. What family traditions are still practiced in your family?
29. What personal traits or characteristics seemed to “run in the family”?
30. Is there an enduring piece of advice or wisdom that’s been passed down from generation to generation in your family?
31. How old were you when you left home? Where to and why did you leave? How did it feel to be on your own?
32. How many years of school did you attend? Did you study in your adult years?
33. What was your first job? Do you remember how much your pay was?
34. What careers have you had? How long at each?
35. Would you choose the same career if you had it to do over?
36. When and where did you meet your husband or wife?
37. If you lived during a war, what memories do you have of war years?
38. To what organizations have you belonged?
39. Have you been politically active during your lifetime?
40. Which presidents have you voted for?