

From the Desk of: Rhonda Hawkins

**A. Parents and Grandparents**

1. What are the names of your parents?
2. What are the names of your mother's parents?
3. When and where were they born and where did they live?
4. What did they do for a living (occupation)?
5. Do you have personal memories of them?
6. What are the names of your father's parents?
7. When and where were they born and where did they live?
8. What did they do for a living (occupation)?
9. Do you have personal memories of them?
10. Did you know your grandparents well? Please always include names and places where persons lived when known.
11. What do you remember hearing about your great-grandparents?
12. Did you even meet them?
13. Did your great-grandparents, grandparents, or parents come to the US from a foreign country? Any stories told in your family about the crossing?
14. Do you have any relatives in foreign countries? Please include, if known, their names and what country.
15. What traditions are still practiced in your family?

**B. Childhood**

○ **The Family House**

1. What type of house did you live in as a child?
2. Other buildings on the same property?
3. If you moved during your childhood, tell where and when and what you can remember of each house and the family circumstances and the reason for the move.
4. In what room did you eat? Kitchen? Dining room?
5. How was your home heated?
6. Did you have a fireplace?
7. What kind of kitchen stove did your parents cook on?
8. What fuel was used?
9. Did you have to buy the fuel or was this a chore, such as cutting wood, with which you had to help?
10. Did you always have electricity? If not, when did you get it?
11. Did you ever use candles or kerosene lamps?
12. Did your family have a cellar? Where did you store food?
13. Where did your family get water? Was it plentiful?
14. What methods were used to conserve water?

○ **Position In Family**

1. What was your position in the family? Oldest? Youngest?
2. What were your duties as a small child?
3. Who cooked the meals? Who did the ironing?
4. Did you buy or make your own clothing?
5. When did you learn to cook and who taught you?
6. Did you ever learn to sew? Crochet? Knit? Embroider? And who taught you?

From the Desk of: Rhonda Hawkins

7. Did you ever learn the mechanics of a car and who taught you?
  8. Did your family keep in touch with distant family?
  9. Did you visit relatives often?
  10. How did you get your mail?
  11. What do you remember about family pets?
  12. Were you especially close to anyone in the family?
  13. How did the family spend its evenings?
  14. Family income and livelihood.
  15. What did your father do for a living?
  16. Did your mother ever work outside of the home?
  17. Did you contribute to the family income?
  18. When did you get your first job outside of the family?
  19. Did your family have a garden?
  20. Who did the work on the garden?
  21. What kinds of vegetables did you grow?
  22. Did your family have fruit trees?
  23. Who did the canning?
  24. Did you raise chickens?
  25. What kind of meat did you eat?
  26. Did you keep a cow for milk?
  27. Did you make your own butter and cheese?
  28. Did anyone in the family sell eggs or butter?
  29. If you lived on a farm, what crops were planted?
  30. Who did the work? Family? Hired hands?
- **Days, seasons and special occasions**
    1. What did Saturday mean to you?
    2. What did Sunday mean to you?
    3. Did you attend church on Sunday?
    4. Where did you attend church?
    5. How did you spend Christmas?
    6. What kinds of gifts did you receive at Christmas?
    7. Did your family observe Easter?
    8. How and where did you observe the Fourth of July?
    9. How was your birthday celebrated?
    10. What kinds of gifts did you receive on your birthdays?
    11. Did your family entertain often? When?
    12. Did your family attend picnics? Family reunions?
    13. What do you remember about them?
    14. How did you keep cool in the summer?
    15. What did you wear in the winter to keep warm?
    16. Do you remember any blizzards or tornadoes or floods?
  - **Friends and Games**
    1. What did you do for recreation?
    2. Did you or your brothers or sisters have any hobbies?
    3. Who was your best friend?
    4. What did you and your friends do when you got together?
    5. Did you and your playmates play any organized games?
    6. Did you ever learn to swim?

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7. Did you participate in youth organizations?

○ **School**

1. Where did you go to school?
2. Did you ever attend a one-room schoolhouse?
3. How did you get to school? If you walked, how far?
4. What do you remember about the walks? Did you walk alone or with friends?
5. Were these walks a hardship in the winter?

○ **Transportation and surroundings**

1. Describe the size of the town where you lived or shopped.
2. Where did your parents shop?
3. How large or small were the stores?
4. If you lived in a small town or on the farm, did you ever go into the city to shop?
5. What was the largest town you member visiting when you were young?
6. Did you ever travel on a train while you were young?
7. Did you or your family own a horse and buggy?
8. When did your family acquire its first car? What make? How much did it cost?
9. When did you learn to drive a car?
10. Where did your family go on vacation?

\*\*These questions should be asked to every living relative you have or can find. Be sure to either video tape or audio tape the answers to the questions above. To preserve the records you have and to be a hero in your descendants' lives, transcribe the questions and answers and print them in book form to give as gifts to each of your descendents. It would also be a good idea to donate a copy of your family history to local genealogy libraries and a copy to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Be sure to not give out any information on the LIVING without permission and definitely don't share any under aged children's info. Don't forget to put your contact information on each book. People will want to contact you to add to your files and be included in any updates you may make.\*\*