

Interviewee

Family Memory Interview Outline

Introductory Information:

- Interviewer's name (as interviewer)
- Date and place of interview
- Name of the person being interviewed
- "This interview is part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Family Memories* Oral History project"

1. Background Information:

A. When and where were you born?

1. How did the family end up in that part of the country?

B. Parent's background?

1. Father?

- a. Occupation(s)?
- b. How would you describe his personalities/abilities?

2. Mother?

- a. Occupation(s)?
- b. How would you describe her personalities/abilities?

3. Which parent do you take after?

C. Other siblings & immediate family?

2. Growing up:

A. Family life?

- i. Describe your home for me.
- ii. Was the family religious?
- iii. Holiday traditions in your family?

Family Memories Outline, cont.

- iv. Do you have an especially memorable Christmas?
 - B. Describe your neighborhood / community?
 - i. Tell me about your friends growing up?
 - ii. What kind of things did you do with your friends?
 - C. Memories from your early years?
 - i. Your earliest memory?
 - ii. What is your most cherished childhood memories?
 - iii. What chores did you have?
 - 1. Did you get an allowance?
 - D. What memories do you have about grade school
 - i. Middle schools (Junior high)?
 - E. High School years:
 - i. Academic interests?
 - 1. Any especially important teachers in your life?
 - ii. Extra-curricular activities/interests?
 - 1. Sports, band, clubs, class positions, etc.
 - 2. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, church groups, etc.
 - iii. Did you have a job?
 - iv. Did you have any hobbies?
 - F. Person who had the strongest influence on your early life?
 - G. Your career aspirations while in high school?
3. Life after high school?

Family Memories Outline, cont.

- A. Choosing a profession? / Finding a job?
 - i. Why that decision?
 - B. Choosing a college?
 - i. What was your major/minor in college?
 - ii. Influential teachers & courses?
 - iii. Did you work during college?
 - C. Masters or other higher degrees?
4. Early career:
- A. Tell me about your first job?
 - i. Describe what you did?
 - ii. Was there a move? Where?
 - iii. What were your long-term goals at the time?
 - B. [*Outline revised after learning more during the pre-interview.*]
- C. Family / private life:
- i. Marriage?
 1. How you met your spouse?
 2. What was it about him/her that attracted you?
 3. Describe your wedding for me?
 - a. When / where / how many attended?
 - b. Special wedding memory?

Family Memories Outline, cont.

- ii. Children?
 - iii. What were your activities & interests outside your work?
 - iv. Your first home? Did you rent or buy?
 - v. Your religious life?
5. *The remainder of the interview outline will be based on the individual's particular career & experiences.*
- A. *[Ask for photos and/or mementos and include a discussion on these.]*
6. Concluding questions: (Ask reflective comments that get the subject to look back on his/her entire career. Some examples, below.)
- A. What is your most cherished possession? May I see it?
 - B. The most fateful decision you made in life; the one that changed the direction of your life after that?
 - C. The accomplishment(s) for which you are most proud?
 - D. Your most exhilarating moment?
 - E. Your most disappointing failure / most painful experience? What you learned from that?
 - F. How your views have evolved / been strengthened over your career?
 - G. What do you would want to be remembered for?
 - H. Closing comments.