

Engaging with Relatives to Recover Your Family's Stories and Build Your Family Tree

Spending time with relatives, listening to their stories and memories and gathering family information, can put you well on your way to building a family tree and some chapters in your family story. You may be able to ask them direct questions, or you may need to take a more creative approach. This list may give you some ideas.

If possible, audio record and/or video these conversation(s), without interrupting the flow, and you will have a priceless treasure of your heritage.

Ways to evoke memories:

- Look together at old photographs of the family, or of the era if you don't have any family photos.
- Play music from their teenage and young adult years.
- If you have started a family tree, show what you have created, and review the branches together.
- Talk about your own life: when you were born, growing up, getting married, etc. Then ask if they can share stories about these types of events in their own life. Also, you can ask if they remember any stories about you, which may remind them of their own life stories.

Some ideas for direct or related questions to gather information:

- When were you born?
Or... I have found your birth year is different on these 3 documents; can you help me... which is the correct year?
- Where were you born?
Or... I know you were born in Spain... was it in Barcelona or a town nearby?
- What was it like growing up there?
- What were the names of your siblings?
Or...besides you, there was Joe and Janey. Did you have other siblings?
Did you have a good time together?

- Did you have cousins?
Were they your age?
Did they live nearby?
- What were your parents' names?
What was your mother's name before she was married?
Where were they from?
Where they immigrant? What was their experience?
When were they born?
Did they ever tell you about their lives back then?
Did they live a long time? Or... How old were you when they passed away?
Did they have siblings?
- Are you a mix of ethnic groups? Which ones?
What were some of your family's cultural traditions?
- Were there any "black sheep" in the family? What is the story?

Eddy & Schein Group can help you connect with relatives and assist with family ancestry projects.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from having a Personal Finance Manager, please contact Eddy & Schein Group for a **free phone consultation**.

Visit our [website](#) or call us: **New York 212-987-1427** or **California 917-881-7042**