

Contents

Contents	v
Foreword by Shondell Hymas	vi
Preface	vii
Acknowledgement	viii
Introduction	ix
Given To	x
Early Years and Growing Up	1
Family and Friends	25
Spouse and Spouse's Family	57
Adult Life	67
Medical History	79
Miscellaneous	87
Conclusion	99
About the Author and Illustrator	Inside Back Cover

Foreword

Something magical happens as you recall and share memories and stories with your family. You help to preserve the past when you put these stories on paper. What do you know about your family and what do you want to learn? What does your family know about you? Have you written down stories from your own life? Do you have a simple curiosity about those who came before you or a deep longing to know who they are? Whether you have participated in family history activities (research or only the enjoyment of reading stories) in the past, or this is just your beginning, *My Family: Things I Want to Know* is the perfect way to explore answers to these questions. Many of you have a desire to create a record of your own life. You naturally want to learn more about those close to you. This book is full of questions to inspire you to learn more. It will help you explore every aspect of your own life and those of your siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

This book will create opportunities to learn more about those you love and future generations to learn about you. Take your time as you answer the questions! Pay attention to the joy and peace felt as you ponder the questions and add your personal touch to the answers. As you work on your family history, you will begin to feel a power and a joy that you will not feel any other way. You may be struggling or overwhelmed in your life or feel buried by the constant pressures. As you explore answers to the questions contained in this book, you will connect with family and friends and have more peace in your life. Get ready to be inspired, uplifted, and even enjoy a laugh or two in uncovering those lost or forgotten stories that cannot go untold.

Shondell Hymas

Preface

I have always loved my family. As a child, I enjoyed the times my sisters and I got together with my cousins. I moved away from my family during my early adult years and missed out on many gatherings. I was still interested in what was going on in their lives, so I kept in touch with my dad's brother, who kept me up to date on everyone. As I became older, I wanted to know more about my parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles as people, not just how I knew them as my relatives. I wanted to know what their likes and dislikes were, what their childhood was like, what they did for a living, and things along those lines. After my mother's dad died in 2002, I realized I would not ask my grandpa anything again. I came up with a written list of some things I wanted to know about my relatives, and then I turned this list into questions I could ask them about themselves and my ancestors. I knew some of the people that could give me this information were getting older. I needed to get busy and ask my questions.

This book is about you and your family. It will be invaluable to you and a treasure for posterity. This book can be used in many ways: for you to fill out about yourself, to interview relatives, or to give copies to multiple relatives to fill out about themselves and then return the book to you. As you answer these questions, please include dates and places of events the best you can remember. Enjoy yourself; allow yourself the time to think and look back on your life. Write this from your perspective. Others might not remember something or someone in the same way. For that reason, I suggest having multiple family members fill out this book for you.

In 2009 my dad was told he had less than two years to live. The following May, I spent three weeks with him and his wife in Florida before he passed. Knowing that it was possibly my last opportunity to ask him things about his life, I added to my previous list of questions and came up with many of the questions in this book. I took my book of questions and a digital voice recorder with me to Florida. I recorded his answers to my questions. After he passed, I relished the recording of his voice and the answers he gave me. I have transcribed the recording and have been able to share it with my sisters and stepmother. I sent the questions in this book to numerous other family members, some of whom have now passed from this earth. I feel truly blessed to have parts of their life recorded in the form of answers to my questions and stories about my ancestors that only they might have known. I hope you will have a similar experience with this book. I am working on one myself and I have some fond memories and exciting things to share with my family and preserve for future generations.

My prayers and hopes are that this book will be a blessing to you and your family as it has been to me and mine.

Della Deetz Frost



Introduction

This book is divided into six sections. Each section has a multiple-choice page that should be easy to fill out. Hopefully, these multiple-choice questions will get you thinking of things that happened during your life and will spark your memory. Following the multiple-choice page are pages of questions. Use a pen as you answer the questions, so your answers do not fade over the years.

The following is an example of how I would answer one of the questions.

The question that I am going to share with you is #13 on page 10.

Did you have a bicycle? What kind of bike was it?

What are your memories around the bike? *I was in 4th or 5th grade when I got my first bicycle. It was*

about 1969, and we lived in Bloomsburg,

Pennsylvania. My dad got three bicycles from his

place of work. Unfortunately, he received two 26" bikes

one 24" bike. The reason I say unfortunately is that I

had never

ridden a bicycle before and a 26" one was big for me. Since I had a younger

sister, she got the 24" bike, and my older sister and I got the 26" bikes. The

house we lived in had a big back yard, but it was downhill. We practiced

riding in the yard, so when we would fall, we wouldn't get hurt too badly. My

sisters picked up riding quickly. They were off riding with the neighbor kids,

and I was still falling in the yard! I was given a deadline and told if I didn't

get the hang of it by such and such a date, I would get training wheels put on

my bike to help me. I was so embarrassed at the thought of having training

wheels on a 26" bike that I was determined to learn how to ride it. After many

*more falls, I learned how to ride the bike **without** having to get training*

wheels. I would go with the neighbor kids riding around the block. There were

many times that I would crash into the sand pile at the bottom of a steep hill

while trying to make the corner because I hadn't gotten the hang of my brakes

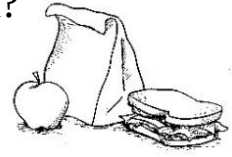
yet. I can still ride a bike to this day and enjoy it!



By sharing that embarrassing story, it is my hope it will spark memories of your own and encourage you to write them down. As you answer and fully explain the questions in this book, you will connect with your past and connect with your family.

Did you usually eat a packed lunch or school lunch?

- ☐ Packed ☐ School



Did you usually walk to school or ride the bus?

- ☐ Walk ☐ Bus

Did you play an instrument in school?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No



Were you in band or orchestra?

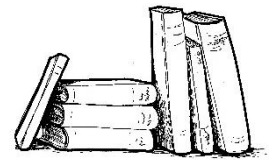
- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Band ☐ Orchestra

Which of these did you like best?

- ☐ English ☐ Math ☐ Science ☐ Social Studies

What grades did you usually get on report cards? You can mark more than one.

- ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F



Did you like reading books as a child?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Did you like to play board games such as Monopoly, Sorry, Checkers, etc.?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Did you like to play card games such as Old Maids, Uno, Go Fish, etc.?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

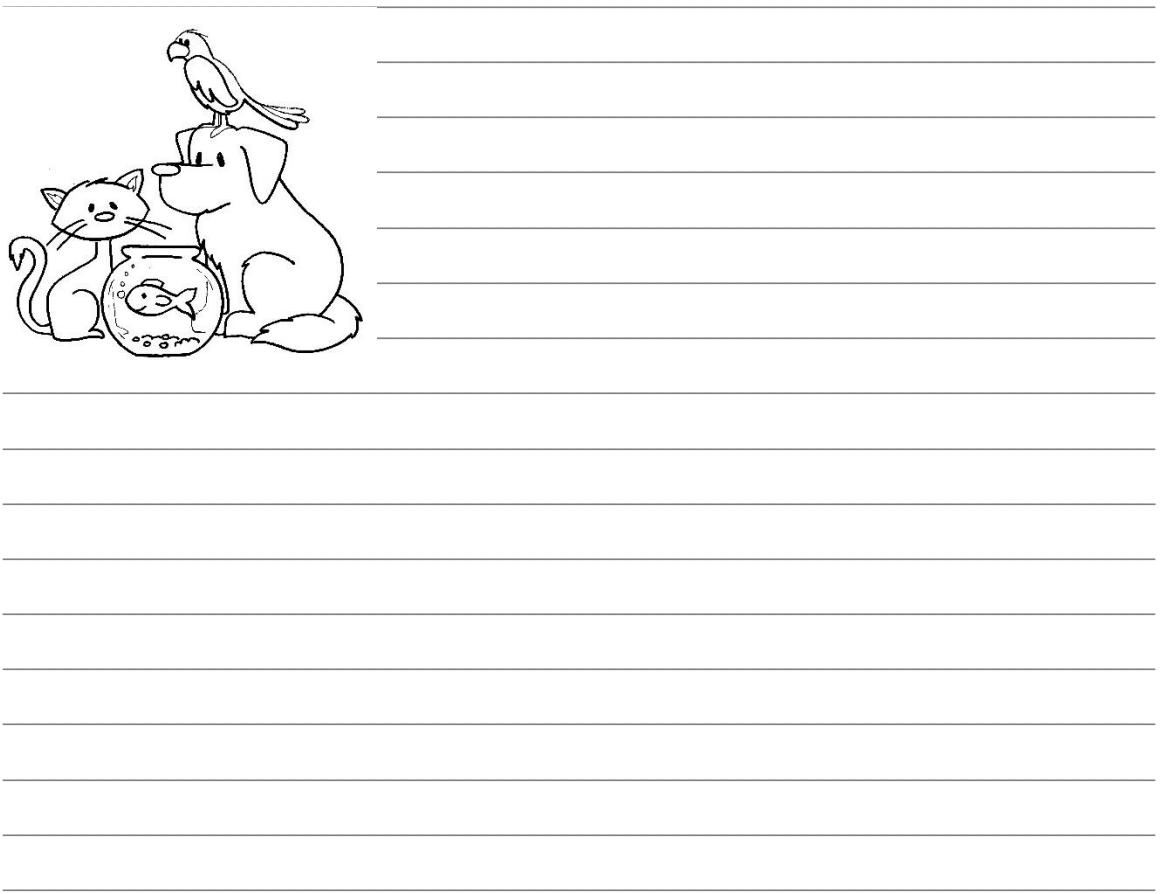
Did you spend more of your free time with family or friends?

- ☐ Family ☐ Friends ☐ About the same

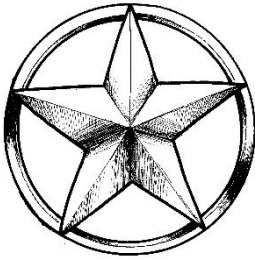
Did you spend more of your free time inside or outside?

- ☐ Inside ☐ Outside ☐ About the same

[illegible]

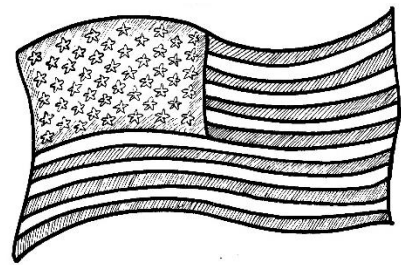


66. Do/did you or your parents serve in the military? If yes, when, where, and what branch of service?



67. Do you know of any other family members who served?

Tell me about it. Be sure to include places and when if known.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

A black and white line drawing of a graduation cap and a rolled-up diploma. The cap is a mortarboard with a tassel hanging from the right side. The diploma is rolled up and tied with a ribbon, positioned in front of the cap. The entire illustration is located on the right side of a page with horizontal ruling lines.

