

Our speaker this month was James R. (Bob) Hagerty who talked about how to write life stories about oneself or others, and how to interview loved ones to preserve their recollections for future generations.

Some general tips:

Whatever you write, make it a story, not just a chronological list of events
If possible, record your conversation so you can review it later
You may have to ask the same question multiple times, perhaps by coming at it from different angles
When you go to write the story, create an outline of how the story will flow

Some questions to get started:

Full name at birth, spelling out middle name(s)
Exact date of birth
Place of birth
Names of parents
Occupations of parents
Early jobs
Education, including all degrees
Why this course of education was chosen?
Career choices and the reasons underlying them
How met spouse or partner
Handicaps or problems and how they were dealt with
Biggest triumphs and disappointments
Favorite pastimes, hobbies, adventures
How life was affected by historical events
Pet peeves
Mottoes or favorite bits of advice
What made you angry, what brought you joy?
What made you laugh, what made you cry?

Recommended books about how the author uncovered their own family history, and what they discovered

Tracing It Home by Lynn Pan
After Visiting Friends by Michael Hainey
Girl From Foreign by Sadia Shepard
Dear Departed and *How Many Years* by Marguerite Yourcenar

Here's an excellent blog that's full of news and up to date tips on genealogy. <https://blog.eogn.com/>

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