

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/>

You can sign up for a free email digest that comes out multiple times a week by paging down and looking on the right-hand side of the page, or by completing this form.

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