

Oral History Interview Questions

Vogelsang House

OLD COUNTRY

- Where are you from?
- Can you describe the geography, climate, and/or wildlife of your old country?
- What were the people like? What languages do they speak?
- What was life in your old country like (holidays, food, clothing)?
- Do you have any special memories from the old country?
- Where did you live (i.e. a city, farm, etc.)?
- What was your family like? Pets? Animals?
- What was your job (or your parents' jobs)? Hobbies?
- How old were you when you emigrated?
- Why did you emigrate?
- How did you feel about leaving?

JOURNEY

- How did you travel from your old country? (Transportation? Stops along the way?)
- How was the journey for you? (Length of time? Conditions?)
- What did you bring with you? What/who did you leave behind?
- Did anyone travel with you? If so, who?....
- How did you feel on your journey? (Physical & emotionally?)
- What did you expect to see, feel, etc. for the new country?

ARRIVAL

- What were your impressions when you first arrived?
- Please tell me about your first day (*When/where you arrived. Who you stayed with. What you did, etc.*)
- Did you know anyone when you first arrived? (Friends or family?)
- Did you speak the language when you first arrived?
- How were you treated when you arrived?
- What job/s did you have when you first arrived?

NEW COUNTRY (SETTLEMENT)

- How have you adjusted to living here? What was hard? What was easy?
- How long have you been in the new country?
- Where do you live now? How does it compare to your old country?
- Tell me about your friends and family here.
- Have you gone back to visit your old country? How do you keep in touch with family & friends in your old country?
- How do you feel about your old country now?
- Did anyone in your family come to the new country after you were here?
- What are you doing now? (Job? Education?)

Is there anything else you would like to tell me?

***Be sure to thank your interviewee when done! ☺*