

# **A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR FAMILY'S HISTORY**



**“The love of a family is life’s greatest blessing.”**

Families are more than shared names or photographs in old albums—they are the keepers of stories, the ties that bind generations together. Through laughter and loss, triumphs and trials, it is the strength of these bonds that carries us forward. A family’s legacy is not just in the milestones, but in the everyday moments that shape who we are and who we become. This record begins with gratitude for those who came before us and love for those who will follow.

The roots of our family tree run deep with resilience, kindness, and connection. Each branch tells a story—of how grandparents taught values by example, how siblings stood by each other, and how parents passed down more than traditions, but a sense of belonging. These stories, both simple and profound, are treasures that deserve to be preserved and shared. They help us understand ourselves and remind us that we are part of something bigger than any one life.

As we turn these pages, we honor the lives that built our foundation. We remember the Sunday dinners, the family vacations, the letters written by hand, and the lessons learned around kitchen tables. This history is a celebration of the love that holds us together, generation after generation. In recording it, we ensure that the spirit of our family endures—not just in memory, but in the hearts of all who come next.

This book is designed for children to ask their parents, grandparents, and other family members about their lives. Each section includes questions with ample space for handwritten answers. Feel free to add photos, drawings, or additional notes.

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## Share what your childhood was like

Where were you born, did you have any siblings, and what was your home like?

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What were your favorite childhood games and toys?

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Who were your closest friends, and what did you do together?

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Can you describe a typical school day when you were young?

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Did you have any special traditions with your family?

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What was your favorite bedtime story or lullaby?

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What kind of clothes did you wear as a child?

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What was your first pet, if any?

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What did you want to be when you grew up?

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What is your fondest childhood memory?

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What was your favorite gift as a child, why?

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What was your favorite holiday? How did you celebrate?

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Besides your immediate family, what relative were you closest to?

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**Please add some photos or additional stories**



## Share what your teen years were like

What was your favorite music, movie, or book as a teenager?

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How did you and your friends spend your free time?

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What was high school like for you?

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Did you have jobs? What was it like?

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What dreams and aspirations did you have at this age?

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Did you participate in any clubs or sports?

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What kind of clothes and hairstyles were popular?

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How did you communicate with friends before cell phones?

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Did you have a memorable birthday or special event during your teen years?

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What advice would you give your teenage self?

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What's was your first job?

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What's your favorite past time thing or event you do with family and friends

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Did you have your own car?

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**Can you share what your Young Adulthood was like**

How did you choose your career or profession?

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Where, when, how long did you work at ?

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How did you meet your spouse/partner?

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What was your first home like?

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What were your biggest challenges as a young adult?

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What advice would you give your younger self?

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What was your favorite trip or adventure during this time?

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How did you spend your weekends?

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What was a major world event that shaped your perspective?

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What was your favorite music or entertainment during this time?

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Who were your role models or mentors?

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What was the favorite car that you owned?

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**Please add some photos or additional stories**

## **Share how you raised your family**

What was it like becoming a parent for the first time?

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What traditions did you create for your family?

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What were some funny or memorable parenting moments?

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How did you balance work and family life?

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What values were most important to you as a parent?

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How did you celebrate special occasions with your children?

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What bedtime stories or songs did you share with your kids?

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How did technology change parenting over the years?

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What was your proudest moment as a parent?

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What advice would you give to future parents?

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**Please add some photos or additional stories**

## Share your holidays & celebrations

How did your family celebrate birthdays when you were growing up?

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What were your favorite holiday traditions?

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Did you ever experience a holiday that was particularly special?

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What was your favorite holiday meal or dish?

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How have holiday traditions changed over the years?

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What was the most exciting gift you ever received?

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Did you have any special New Year's traditions?

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How did your family celebrate religious or cultural holidays?

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What's one holiday memory that makes you smile?

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If you could relive one holiday, which one would it be?

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**Please add some photos or additional stories**

## Share how church shaped your life

What role did religion play in your family when you were growing up?

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Do you remember any special prayers, hymns, or religious traditions from your childhood?

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Did your family attend a specific church, synagogue, or place of worship? What was it like?

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Were there any religious leaders (pastors, priests, rabbis, etc) who had a significant impact on your life?

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How did your beliefs or religious practices change as you grew into adulthood?

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When you started your own family, how did you incorporate religion into your home?

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Did you teach your children any prayers, scriptures, or religious traditions? If so, which ones?

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How did your faith help you through difficult times in your life?

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Were there any major religious milestones (baptisms, confirmations, bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings) that were particularly meaningful to you?

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If you could pass down one lesson about faith or spirituality to future generations, what would it be?

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**Share how political occurrences shaped our family**

What was the political climate like when you were growing up, and how did it influence your views?

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Were there any historical events or leaders that shaped your political beliefs?

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Have your political views changed over time? If so, what influenced those changes?

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How did politics play a role in your family life and discussions while raising children?

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What advice would you give to future generations about staying informed and engaged in political matters?

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## Growing Up

What was your home like when you were a child? How has it changed over the years?

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What were your favorite places to visit when you were growing up?

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Do you remember any big community events, fairs, or festivals that were special?

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What schools did you attend? What were they like?

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What were the local businesses or stores that everyone shopped at when you were young?

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## **Family Life & Community**

Did your family own land or a business? What stories do you remember about it?

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Who were some well-known or respected people in the community when you were growing up?

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What were church services like? Was there a particular church your family attended?

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What did people do for fun when you were young? Any favorite pastimes?

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Do you have any stories about local legends, folklore, or unusual events that happened?

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What was your County fair like?

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### **Family Origins & Ancestry**

Do you know where our ancestors came from before settling in this area?

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Have you heard any stories about how our family first arrived in Tennessee (or the US)?

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Are there any family names that have been passed down through generations?

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What kind of ancestral heritage did our family come from? Did we have Scots-Irish, Native American, African American, Melungen, Black Dutch, German, French, or other ancestral heritage in our family?

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## **Military Service & Historical Events**

Do you know if any of our ancestors fought in the Civil War, Revolutionary War, or other conflicts?

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Have any family members served in the military? Do you know their stories?

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Were there any family members affected by the Great Depression, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, War in Afghanistan, 9/11, or other major event?

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Did our family have any connections to famous historical figures or events?

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### **Family Traditions & Stories**

What are some family traditions or customs that have been passed down through generations?

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Are there any old family heirlooms, letters, or photographs with special stories behind them? And where are they?

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What were the names of your grandparents and great-grandparents? What were they like?

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Have you ever heard any unusual or mysterious stories about our ancestors?

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### **Family Life & Occupations**

What types of work did our ancestors do for a living? Did they own farms or businesses?

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Have you ever heard stories about how our family survived difficult times, such as wars, economic hardships, or natural disasters?

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Do we have any long-standing family connections to certain towns, churches, or cemeteries?

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Are there any family bibles that are known about for our ancestors?

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Who has the family photos and are they labeled?

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What are the particularly important family keepsakes, why are they important, and where are they right now?

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**Please add some photos or additional stories**

**Can you share your reflections & wisdom?**

What life lessons do you want to pass down?

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What historical events impacted your life the most?

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What advice do you have for future generations?

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What is something you wish more people understood about life?

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If you could go back and relive any moment, what would it be?

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What do you consider to be share how you met greatest accomplishment?

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How do you want to be remembered?

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What was your biggest challenge in life, and how did you overcome it?

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What is one thing you still hope to accomplish?

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If you could share one piece of wisdom, what would it be?

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Share how you met the people you loved and how your relationships grew over time. If you were married, describe what your wedding day was like.

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Are there any family black sheep legends or secrets?

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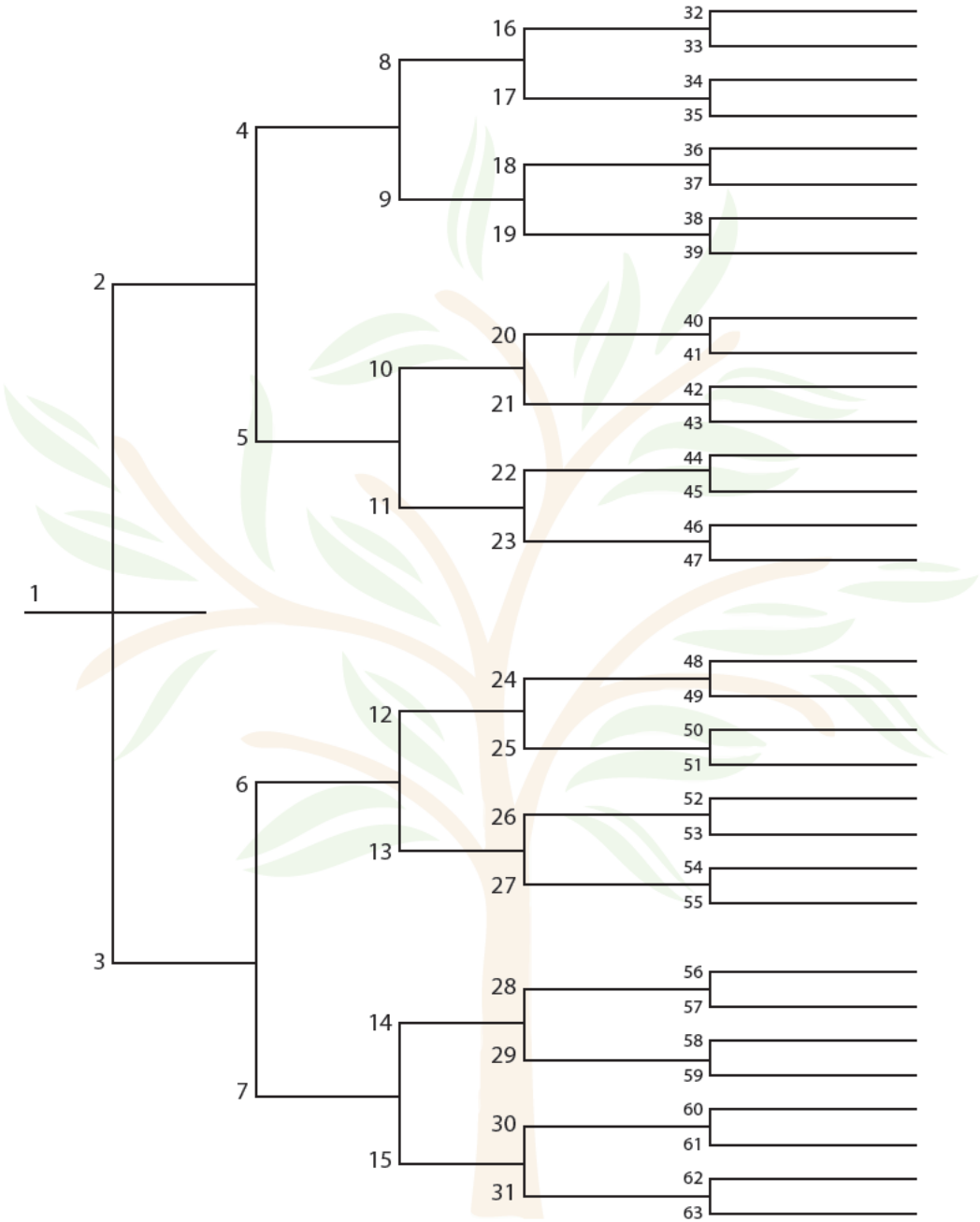
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Please share as much as you know about our family tree



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What is the most magical breakfast you make on special holidays and how is it made?

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What is your secret dinner recipe that the family needs to learn to make?

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What is the Favorite Desert you make and how do you make it?

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## Closing Thoughts

This book is a gift to future generations, preserving the history, wisdom, and love that binds our family together; share some final words.

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Thank you for taking the time to share your story with your loved ones, if you have thoughts  
on other things we should add please send them to us at:

[DeKalb.Tennessee.Genealogy@Gmail.com](mailto:DeKalb.Tennessee.Genealogy@Gmail.com)

DeKalbTennesseeGenealogy.com

