

# The Power of Preserving Oral History: Collecting Oral Histories Using the FamilySearch Memories App

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Step 1: Download the FamilySearch Memories App and open the App



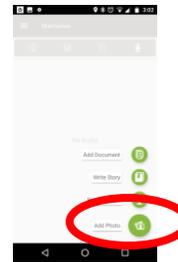
Step 2: Select the Microphone Icon



Step 3: Press the Plus Icon



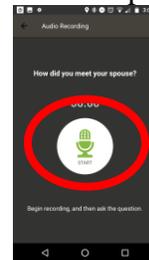
Step 4: Select Record Audio



Step 5: Select your question or click Begin Recording



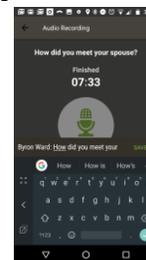
Step 6: Click on the Microphone Start button



Step 7: Click Done when finished



Step 8: Name the recording: Person's name and main question



## Oral History Interviewing Tips

### Planning the Interview

1. **What do you want to know**
  - Are there stories that you have heard that you want recorded
  - What do you want to know more about
2. **Prepare questions before the interview; write them down**
  - For a brief 5-10 minute interview, write down 10 questions. You will not ask all questions but will be prepared in case you need to ask further questions.
  - Open ended questions, cannot be answered by just a Yes or No answers
  - How, What, When, Where, Who, Why.
3. **Test your device and the app before you begin the interview**
4. **Interview in a quiet room and avoid noise from:**
  - Fluorescent lights, chiming clocks, heating and cooling systems, ringing telephones and televisions, other conversations, etc.
5. Be sure the questions **and** answers are recorded.
6. Position the device about 9 inches from the interviewee.

### Making the Interview

1. **State at the beginning of the interview:**
  - Date and place of the interview
  - Name of the person being interviewed
  - Interviewee's birth date
  - Name of the interviewer

For example: This is Jane Doe. Today is Friday, March 1, 2019 and I am interviewing my grandfather, John Smith at his home in Colville, Washington. Grandpa, how did you meet Grandma?

#### Other tips for making a great interview:

- **Never record secretly.**
- Keep your questions short. Avoid complicated, multipart questions.
- Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." Ask "how, when, and why" questions instead.
- Keep your opinions out of the interview, and don't ask leading questions that suggest answers.
- Encourage the interviewee with nods of the head rather than audible responses such as "yes" or "uh huh" that will be recorded.
- Be patient and give the person time to reflect before going on to a new question. Many people take short reflective breaks in the course of answering one question.
- Use follow-up questions to elicit more details from the interviewee. Examples include: When did that happen? Did that happen to you? What did you think about that? What are the steps in doing that?
- Be yourself. Don't pretend to know more about a subject than you do.