

## **An Event in the World That Changed My Family's Story**

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Events in the world can affect people many people in many ways. For example, the Irish potato famine drove many people to leave Ireland in the late 1840s. The events of September 11, 2001 changed all of our lives in big and small ways—e.g., think about how air travel has changed. The COVID-19 pandemic is changing the world right now, and it is affecting all of us in many ways each day. Perhaps, though, a more focused event had a major impact on our family—e.g., a fire that caused the family to quit farming, a new job that required the family to move to another state, a social event that served as a venue for a family member to meet his/her eventual life partner. In this workshop, each of us will write about some large or small event that changed the course for our family.

Some questions to spark thinking:

### **A Large-Scale Event** (one that affected many people beyond your family)

1. What is a large-scale event—at any time in history—that affected your family's story in noticeable ways?
2. Why did that event affect your family?
3. How did that event affect your family?
4. Did it affect your family in ways that differed from the effects on other families?
5. Did it affect different family members differently?
6. Given that United States has been engaged in war for 225 of 245 years since 1776 (as of July 2020), how has war affected your family's story?
7. The Great Depression (August 1929 to March 1933) and the recession that followed a few years later affected the lives of millions of families. What do you know about how it affected your family?
8. How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your family?
9. How did 9/11 affect your family?
10. When you were a child, what large-scale event changed the way that you looked at the world?

### **A Small-Scale Event** (one that affected primarily your family only)

1. What is a small-scale event—at any time in history—that affected your family's story in noticeable ways?
2. Why did that event affect your family?
3. How did that event affect your family?
4. Did it affect different family members differently?
5. How has migration—at any point in history—affected your family?
6. What small-scale event changed the way that you looked at the world?