



Your Roots, Reclaimed.

*Gather, decode and pass on
your family story, guided by AI.*

10 prompts to gather, decode,
search, tell and pass it on.

Free for the SYSTINFO community



GOOD TO KNOW

A helper, not a proof.

Tracing your family story can feel out of reach, between scattered archives and memories fading away. Assistants like ChatGPT, Gemini or Le Chat read old handwriting, date a photo and guide your search, without replacing the archives, your elders or a genealogist. Three reflexes first.

- **AI often gets names and dates wrong**

An automatic transcription of an old record is a starting point, never a certainty. Read it yourself and check it against the original document.

- **Nothing replaces the source**

AI does not know your local archives. Confirm every fact with an official register, a civil record or the testimony of an elder.

- **Respect the privacy of the living**

Do not post a living relative's details without consent. Anonymise anything sensitive before you paste it into an AI.

The right reflex: AI points you to the trail, the source and an elder confirm it.
systinfo.org · systinfo.ai · blog.systinfo.ai



THE METHOD

Five moves, ten prompts.

Reclaiming your roots comes down to five moves: gather what you know, decode the old traces, search for what is missing, tell it to bring it alive, and pass it on to those who follow. Ten prompts, two per step.

*Every prompt follows the same recipe: Role, Context, Task, Format.
Copy the structure, change the brackets.*

01 Gather
· 2 prompts

02 Decode
· 2 prompts

03 Search
· 2 prompts

04 Tell
· 2 prompts

05 Pass on
· 2 prompts



The Interview Guide

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a collector of family memory.

Context: I will interview [an elder, relationship],
aged [age], about [their youth, our village, a trade].

Task: prepare a warm, respectful set of questions.

Format: about fifteen open questions, grouped by
theme, from the easiest to the most personal, with
gentle follow-ups to keep them talking, never pushing.

What you get

An interview that flows instead of freezing up. Good questions unlock precious memories an elder would never have thought to share.



The Tidy Tree

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a methodical genealogist.

Context: here is what I know, in a jumble: [names, dates, places, relationships, as I have them].

Task: arrange all of it into a clear, readable tree.

Format: a list per generation, what is confirmed and what still needs checking, and the gaps to fill first, with one question for each empty slot.

What you get

The mess becomes a map. Seeing at a glance what you know and what is missing turns a pile of notes into a real research plan.



Old Handwriting Read

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a reader of old handwriting.

Context: I have an [old document, letter, record]:

[type what you can make out, or attach a photo].

Task: help me turn it into readable text.

Format: the closest transcription you can, uncertain words marked with a question mark, and a reminder to check the names against the original.

What you get

A silent text finds its voice again. An old letter finally readable is a voice from the past recovered, to confirm afterwards word by word.



The Old Photo Dated

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a specialist in old photographs.

Context: I have an undated family photo:

[describe the clothing, the setting, or attach it].

Task: help me place its era and its context.

Format: a likely range of years, the clues behind it (clothes, objects), leads to identify the people, and what remains uncertain.

What you get

An image steps out of anonymity. Dating a photo ties a face to a generation and reopens a door onto your own history.



The Archive Leads

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a genealogy research guide.

Context: I am looking for [an ancestor, a record, a link] in [place, country] around [period], and I am stuck.

Task: show me where to look, step by step.

Format: the kinds of registers to consult, where they usually sit, the logical order of searching, and a reminder that holdings vary from country to country.

What you get

A dead end becomes a route. Knowing which register to open and in what order saves you months of searching in the dark.



The Record Decoded

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a reader of civil records.

Context: I have [a birth, marriage or death record]:
[copy its contents, or attach it].

Task: explain what it says and what it reveals.

Format: each mention in plain words, clues about the
other people named, the new leads it opens, and a
reminder to cross-check before concluding.

What you get

An official document starts to talk. A record read well often yields names, places and dates that unlock a whole branch.



Portrait of an Ancestor

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a biographer devoted to true detail.

Context: here is what I know about [an ancestor]:

[trade, places, dates, anecdotes, what I have].

Task: help me write a vivid portrait of them.

Format: a short, sober text built only on my facts,
with the unknown areas flagged, inventing nothing
to fill the gaps.

What you get

A name on a tree becomes a person. A faithful portrait gives flesh to an ancestor and passes on far more than a date of birth.



The Family Story

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a writer of family sagas.

Context: I have gathered [notes, testimonies, dates] about [my family, across three generations].

Task: help me weave them into a story that holds.

Format: a clear thread from oldest to most recent, short chapters per generation, staying faithful to the facts and flagging whatever is not certain.

What you get

Fragments become a story. An ordered narrative gets read, shared and kept, where scattered notes end up forgotten in a drawer.



The Memory Booklet

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are a designer of family booklets.

Context: I want to give [a booklet, an album] to [my children, the family] from [what I have].

Task: propose a booklet plan that is simple to make.

Format: the sections in order, what each one holds, where to place photos and anecdotes, and a final page for everyone to add their own next chapter.

What you get

A legacy you can hold in your hands. A clear booklet keeps family memory alive at the table, far more than a file lost on a computer.



The Memories Preserved

PROMPT TO COPY

Role: you are an advisor on preserving keepsakes.

Context: I have fragile [photos, letters, tapes, documents] that I do not want to lose.

Task: tell me how to save them for the long term.

Format: the order of priorities, how to digitise them simply, how to name and file the results, and the rule of keeping copies in several places.

What you get

Time no longer destroys your treasure. Digitising and filing well puts your memories beyond damp, loss and accidents.



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