

Personal virtues and faults:

You'll be asked to answer these questions as your character.

Are you honest or do you lie?  
Are you mild mannered or hot tempered?  
Are you funny or serious?  
Optimistic or pessimistic?  
Open or fearful?  
Friendly or afraid of strangers?  
Confident or wary?  
Do you have talents in art?  
Do you sing or play an instrument?  
Do you draw, sketch or paint?  
Do you dance well or write or recite poetry?

What is your secret?

By answering these questions we'll be prepared to make the most of our time during the exchanges.

*Thank you for the good beginning.  
I can't wait to see you all again -- !*

*Kathleen Gaffney*

What do you (or does your family do) to make a living? Many people were farmers do you carry tools, seeds, can you build things, do you sew well?

What skills do you have that you'll be able to call upon during your journey and where you settle?

(This is where the "Yes, yes, good" exercise pays off.) The object that is saved could have great meaning (like the bill of sale for an ancestor when he/she was auctioned off during the time of slavery), or be totally useless and somewhat silly like a spoon but it takes on meaning later because it takes the journey with you.

Are you physically strong and healthy or if not what specifically is your challenge?

Please! --- not *everyone* with a health challenge or disability!

Who have you left behind that you will miss the most?

This is an important choice since you will be writing letters home to this person. If your character is too young or old to write, we can say that someone else is writing the letter on your behalf but each family member will compose their own letters.

The person may be a relative --- grandma or grandpa or other, a friend, a sweetheart --- and so on.

What are you bringing with you? What clothing? What food? What important objects? A family Bible? How much money do you have? Where is it hidden? Do you have things packed in cloth parcels? Suitcases? Wooden boxes? (If you are coming by wagon you can bring more things.)

Does the family practice a religion? Which one? Does your character believe in it?



## *A message from Kathleen Gaffney ---*

Greetings to you! teachers, students, actors, media specialists, artists and fellow travelers!

To prepare for our journey I want you to be aware that I will be asking the following questions of your characters. You need to be ready with answers.

What is your first name, how old are you and what is your relationship to your family?

Why is your family leaving your home? Be prepared to give specifics.  
For example:

The Samson family may say, "The flood washed away our house". I'll ask follow up questions like. "How long did you live there?" "What about your animals?" "Did you save anything?" Perhaps one family member was falsely accused of stealing things or murder.

Do you personally want to go?

Many people were very reluctant to go great distances but had no other choice, some were forced by their families, some wanted the adventure or yearned for the change.

What have you heard about where you are going?  
Chicago or Minnesota or The New World in New Jersey) or the Oregon Territory?

Perhaps different people have heard different things. A father may have heard that the valleys in Oregon are green with fruit trees everywhere while his wife has heard that Indians kill all new comers cut their scalps off and cut out their hearts.