



## Morton History Project Project Questionnaire

**Sponsored by the Morton Community Foundation, supported by the Morton Library and administered by the Morton Chamber of Commerce.**

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Morton Chamber of Commerce's Morton History project funded by the Morton Community Foundation and supported by the Morton Library.

You will find a release form and a list of questions below. These questions were developed to capture stories about the people and places of Morton.

### **Purpose of Project:**

- To capture stories about the people and places in Morton's history.
- To identify the location of local landmarks.

### **Outcomes of Project:**

- Digital files of oral and written histories to be shared on the Morton Library website.
- Stories about community landmarks, that will be incorporated and shared in various spin-off publications.
- A Historical Walking Map to be shared with the public and published digitally.

### **To submit a narrative, please do the following:**

- Complete the personal information and give the required consent for use in the project.
- Read through the questions and answer any that apply to or of interest to you. Please don't be overwhelmed by the number of questions here. You are not required to answer them all. They are intended to invoke memories and spur thinking. **We ask that you try to answer at least 10 questions** to be included in the project.

- 20 written narratives will be published on the Morton History website. The remaining submissions will be archived and available at the Morton Library. Further details are articulated in the consent below.
- **Here are a few ways that you can submit your Morton History Stories:**
  - You can type/write your answers in this document directly.
  - You can re-type or re-write the answers onto another sheet of paper or into another document.
  - You can submit answers online at [mortonchamber.org](http://mortonchamber.org).
- When you are finished with your answers, you can send them to us using the following methods:
  - U.S. Postal Service – 415 W. Jefferson St; Morton, IL 61550
  - Save/Scan and e-mail [lfisher@mortonillinois.org](mailto:lfisher@mortonillinois.org)
  - Or bring it by the Chamber office between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday at 415 W. Jefferson.
- You may be contacted for further interview questions and recordings.

Thank you again for your interest in participating. We look forward to reading your stories about Morton!

Sincerely,

Leigh Ann Brown and Lenora Fisher  
Morton Chamber of Commerce

## Personal Information:

**This information is for record keeping purposes only and will not be shared:**

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin: Name & Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Required Consent

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a participant in the Morton History Project (hereinafter "MHP") of the Morton Chamber of Commerce, the Morton Community Foundation and the Morton Public Library. I understand that the purpose of the MHP is to collect written-, audio-, and video-recorded oral histories of Morton's people and places, as well as selected related documentary materials such as photographs and manuscripts, for inclusion in the Morton Library's digital collection. These oral histories and related materials serve as a record of Morton History and as a scholarly and educational resource for the Library and general public. I understand that the Morton Library plans to retain the product of my participation in the MHP, including but not limited to my interview, presentation, video, photographs, statements, name, images or likeness, voice, and written materials ("My Collection") as part of its permanent collections. I hereby grant to the Morton Library and Morton Chamber of Commerce ownership of the physical property comprising My Collection.

Additionally, I hereby grant the Morton Chamber and Morton Library, at no cost, the perpetual, nonexclusive, transferable, worldwide right to use, reproduce, transmit, display, perform, prepare derivative works from, distribute, and authorize the redistribution of the materials in My Collection in any medium. By giving this permission, I understand that I retain any copyright and related rights that I may hold. I hereby release the Morton Library and Morton Chamber of Commerce, and its assignees and designees, from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of My Collection, including but not limited to any claims for copyright infringement, defamation, invasion of privacy, or right of publicity. Should any part of My Collection be found to include materials that the Morton Library and Morton Chamber of Commerce deems inappropriate for retention with the collection or for transfer to other

collections in the Library, the Library may dispose of such materials in accordance with its procedures for disposition of materials not needed for the Library's collections.

**I accept and agree to the above statement:**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Morton History Questions:**

1. What year were you born (Required)?
2. Where were you born? City/State/Country & Hospital if possible.
3. Tell us a little bit about yourself?
4. How many generations of your family have lived in Morton?
5. What is your ethnic background? From what countries did your family originate?
6. How did your family find/come to Morton? What brought them here?
7. How long have you lived in Morton? Did you ever leave? For what reason?
8. If you did leave, what brought you back to Morton?
9. What is your earliest memory of the Village?
10. What did you want to be when you grew up?
11. How has the Village changed over the years?
12. What was it like when you grew up here/first moved here?

13. What do you miss about the way it used to be?
14. Who are some of the local town "characters" or legends from here?
15. Do you remember any great stories or legends about our town?
16. What were your favorite things to do as a kid?
17. What stores did you frequent that are no longer here? What were they like? What did they sell? Where were they located? What did you like to purchase there?
18. What other memorable aspects of the community are no longer here?
19. Where was the public library? What would you do there? What services did it provide Morton residents?
20. What grocery store did you patronize? Drugstore? Hardware store? Barber shop? Beauty shop? Clothing store? How did you travel to these places?
21. Did you have a car? What kind was it? Who repaired it? Where was the gas station? Cost of gas? Where did you go when you went out for a drive?
22. Did your mom and dad work? Where?
23. Where did you go to see a movie? Play? Concert?
24. Were there community music or theater groups? What did a ticket cost? What shows do you remember seeing?
25. Who were your favorite local performers?

26. Where were the favorite spots to gather? Was there a neighborhood bar or restaurant? Was it a place for gossip or political discussion? Was it a trouble spot? Who did you typically see there? Men? Women? Mixed?
27. What were the troubled spots in town? What places had a reputation and why?
28. What did you do on a Saturday Night? How about on a Sunday afternoon?
29. What were the most popular local sports?
30. Did you follow any professional teams? Which ones?
31. Where did you go on vacation with your family?
32. How did you celebrate the holidays?
33. How did the community celebrate Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day?
34. What newspapers did you read?
35. Did you rely on the radio for national news? What radio stations did you listen to?
36. What was the first national or world news event you remember hearing about? How did you hear about it?
37. What was the best source of news during World War II?
38. What were your favorite radio programs?
39. When did you get a television set? And from where did you get it?
40. What was the first news event you remember seeing on the television?
41. Anything else to add? Anything you'd like others to remember?