



Morton History Project

Interviewer 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 list of questions below. Please use them to help 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.
- To identify Morton's cultural roots.
- To capture stories of notable people in Morton's history.

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 record an interview, please do the following:

- Identify a person you'd like to interview. Contact them and use the Oral History Interview Tips document to prep for and complete your interview.
- Obtain your narrator's required consent for participation in the project.
- Read through the questions in advance and be sure to capture the location of places mentioned by the narrator. Please don't be



overwhelmed by the number of questions given here. You are not required to capture answers to them all. They are intended to invoke memories and spur thinking. **We ask that you try to capture answers to at least 10 questions** for inclusion in the project.

- 20 written narratives will be published on the Morton History website. A couple video recordings will be shared on the website as well. 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 capture and submit your Morton History Stories:**
 - You can type/write your answers and send us the file via UPS or e-mail.
 - U.S. Postal Service – 415 W. Jefferson St; Morton, IL 61550
 - Save/Scan and e-mail lfisher@mortonillinois.org
 - You can re-type or re-write the answers onto another sheet of paper or into another document.
 - You can video record your interview using your smart phone, then load the video to a google drive and share it with the Chamber at lfisher@mortonillinois.org.
 - You can schedule a time to video/audio record an interview at the Chamber of Commerce by calling 309-263-2491.
 - Or bring the files 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 learning the stories you capture about the people and places of Morton!



Interviewer Information:

Interviewer Name: _____

Interviewer Phone number: _____

Interviewer E-mail address: _____

Name of Interviewee: _____

Relationship to interviewee: _____

Date of Interview: _____

Did you get the Interview Consent signed? Yes / No

Interview Questions:

1. Can you tell me your name, age, and a bit about yourself?
2. What year were you born (Required)?
3. Where were you born? City/State/Country. Were you born in a hospital? At home? Elsewhere?
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? For what were they known?
15. Any other great stories or legends to share about the Village?
16. Any family members or family member accomplishments you'd like remembered? Why?
17. What were your favorite things to do as a kid?
18. 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?



19. What other memorable aspects of the community are no longer here?

20. Where was the public library? What would you do there? What services did it provide Morton residents?

21. Where was the grade school located? The High School?

22. What grocery store did you patronize? Drugstore? Hardware store? Barber shop? Beauty shop? Clothing store? How did you travel to these places? Where were they located? What made them great?

23. Did your mom and dad work? Where?

24. Who were the major employers in the area? Where were they located? What did they make/manufacture?

25. Were there community music or theater groups? Where did they perform? What did a ticket cost? What shows do you remember seeing?

26. Where were the favorite spots to gather? Where did you typically see your friends and neighbors most regularly?

27. Was there a neighborhood bar or restaurant where people gathered? Was it a place for gossip or political discussion?

28. What were the troubled spots in town? What places had a reputation and why?



29. What did you do on a Saturday Night? How about on a Sunday afternoon? Where did you go for these activities?
30. What were the most popular local sports?
31. Did you follow any professional teams? Which ones?
32. Where did you go on vacation with your family?
33. How did you celebrate the holidays?
34. How did the community celebrate Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day?
35. What newspapers did you read?
36. Did you rely on the radio for national news? What radio stations did you listen to?
37. What was the first national or world news event you remember hearing about? How did you hear about it?
38. What was the best source of news during World War II?
39. What were your favorite radio programs?
40. When did you get a television set? And from where did you get it?



41. What was the first news event you remember seeing on the television?

42. Anything else to add? Anything you'd like others to remember about the community?