Scott County Community Memory Project Oral History Questions / Outline

General Questions to start off with. If stories are not flowing, see specific questions for each area.

* How did your family come to live in Scott County? Who are the other family members still in the area?
* Tell me about your family background.
* Describe your childhood and some early memories of growing up.
* What did your parents/grandparents do for a living? As a child, did you contribute to the family income or help parents in their work in any way?
* What activities did your family do together?
* What was the community you grew up in like?
* What school(s) did you attend and what do you remember about them?
* What did you want to be when you grew up?
* How did things change when you became a teenager (interests, relationship with parents, jobs)
* Talk about your life as an adult – marriage, jobs, volunteer organizations
* What has provided the greatest satisfaction in your life? What accomplishments are you most proud of?
* What about the greatest challenges?
* Talk about how the world has changed since you were young.
* Describe some of the greatest changes you have seen in Scott County (or specific town(s))
* How did national and international events impact your family and the community? (Depending on age…Great Depression, World Wars, Vietnam, Civil Rights Movement, immigration, advent of radio, television, computers)
* What is one thing you want people to remember about you?

**Other questions to ask about early childhood may include:.**

* What was your parents’ religious background? How was religion observed in your home?
* What were your parents’ political beliefs? What political or other organizations were they involved in?
* Describe your siblings and their interactions with when they were young. What did you do together?
* Describe the house you grew up in.
* What were your family’s economic circumstances? Do you remember any times when money was tight? Do you remember having to do without things they wanted or needed?
* What were your duties around the house as a child? What were the other children’s duties? What skills did you learn (e.g., cooking, carpentry, crafts) and who taught them?
* Any special food you remember from their childhood? Do you currently make any traditional family foods? What did you do for birthdays and holidays?
* What were some favorite toys or games you played with?

**Other questions to ask about the community they grew up in may include:**

* What races and ethnicities were in the neighborhood?
* what did people do for a living?
* Where did they shop?
* What was the largest town or city you remember visiting when you were young and what were your impressions of it?

**Other questions to ask about schooling may include:**

* What was school like for you? What did you like about it? What was hard about it?
* Who are some friends you remember from growing up?
* Who were your favorite teachers?
* What was discipline or bullying like at school?

**Other questions to ask about friends/interests may include:**

* What did you do in your spare time?
* Who were your friends and what did you do when you got together? Hobbies?

**Other questions to ask about teenage years include:**

* What were your plans when you finished school? Education? Work? What did your parents think of your plans?
* What did your friends plan to do?
* How did you spend any money you earned?
* Describe your first date.
* What were your hobbies/interests? Books read? Music listened to? Sports played?

**Other questions to ask about adulthood include:**

* If married, describe how you met your spouse?
* What is a memory that stands out from your wedding day?
* What drew them together Describe decision to marry/move in together What was most
* Who worked in the household and how did you support the family?
* What were some rewards and challenges of each job?
* How did you balance work and family life?
* Describe the birth of children. What were each like when they were young?
* What activities did the family do together? Family traditions. What was most satisfying to you about raising children? What was most difficult? What values did you try to raise your children with?
* How did you express your political opinions?