



[www.saveculture.org](http://www.saveculture.org)

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## Oral History Contest Questions for Interviewee

### A. Family History

1. When did your family first emigrate to Western North Carolina/ Henderson County
2. What drew your ancestors to this area
3. Where did they settle and how did they make their living
4. Where have your relatives spread out over the years in this region

### B. Lifestyles

1. What was life like for you growing up
2. How has life changed for you over the years
3. What factors are changing local lifestyles in Henderson County
4. What customs/events/rituals help to preserve old lifestyles and values in this region
5. How are your family traditions passed down

### C. The Importance of Arts and Crafts

1. Tell me about the importance of art, music, and crafts in your family
2. How can young people learn about traditional music, arts, and crafts

### D. Religion

1. Tell us about your participation in a faith community
2. What faith-based customs and traditions are important to you
3. How have the religious communities evolved over time in Henderson County

### E. Food and Cooking

1. Did you grow your own food?
2. Did you own a family farm?
3. What did you grow? How much of it did the family use, how much of it was traded or sold?
4. What markets did you use to sell your food

5. How did you get things that weren't local- machine parts, tools, etc
6. Who sold them, what role did the store play in the life of the community
7. Methods used to bring water into their homes
8. Methods used for heating their homes
9. Where did they build their homes
10. Types of crops they grew and methods used for agriculture
11. Types of animals raised and their purpose
12. Did they preserve their food for winter use? how?
13. What methods were used to cook and prepare food?
14. How was clothing obtained? Was it home sewn? How?
15. What forms of recreation were utilized? Favorite games to play as kids?
16. Where did you buy food (at farmers markets or grocery stores)

#### **F. Relationship with the Land**

1. What was the countryside like when you grew up
2. What wildlife did you see
3. Did you all hunt and fish
4. What was your attitude towards conserving the natural beauty of this area
5. What did you think about the establishing of National Forests, National Parks, State Parks like DuPont and other conservation areas
6. How does your family continue to enjoy the outdoors

#### **G. Historic Preservation**

1. What was your house/s like growing up
2. Are any of these old homes still standing
3. How has downtown Hendersonville changed over the years
4. What would you like to see preserved as far as old home and historic sites goes
5. What can be done to preserve old traditions and values
6. Do you have old family photos and historic documents; are you interested in preserving them
7. What are the traditional values and customs that you most treasure and what would you recommend be done to carry them on and preserve them
8. What are the most important lessons that young people can learn from their elders
9. Why is it important to remember our local history?
10. What do our young people lose when they don't know what came before them?