



Mission Statement

The purpose of the Mower County Historical Society is to discover, collect, preserve and disseminate knowledge about the history of Mower County and to relate it to the history of the State of Minnesota.

Mower County Through My Eyes: An Oral History Project of the Mower County Historical Society

Not quite sure about being interviewed by MCHS for our oral history project? That's ok! We understand not everyone wants to talk on camera. You can still participate in the project by answering some questions and sending your answers to us. If you like, go ahead and write your own personal history as a narrative or just simply answer the questions; it is completely up to you! Help us fulfill our mission statement by telling your story to preserve Mower County history today!

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Middle Name or Initial: _____ Maiden Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

NOTE: We are collecting the above information in case we would like to contact you for clarity in your narrative or ask you to give more details about a particular part of your narrative. The questions on the reverse side of this page are simply a starting point, feel free to develop more questions to answer. You are ***encouraged*** to include photos and as many pages as you like with your submission! The sky is the limit on this project. Please inform us if you would like any of the photos returned or if we may keep them.

When you are finished, your narrative can be submitted by three ways (always include the above requested information):

Submission #1	Submission #2	Submission #3
Drop off during regular hours Tuesday through Friday 10 AM to 4 PM	By mailing it to MCHS 1303 6th Ave. SW Austin, MN 55912	Via email to mchsdir@smig.net with the subject line as "MY HISTORY"

Starting questions for writing your history narrative

Where were you born and raised? If not in Mower County, when did you come here and why?

What was your family like (siblings, parents, others in the household)? What happened to your family members? Where are they now? Have they married? Had children? Where do they work and doing what? Did you have pets?

Where did you attend school? Describe the school. What were classes like? What was your favorite subject? Least favorite subject? Favorite or least favorite teacher?

Did your family attend church? Which one? What was it like?

Where was your family home (address if possible)? Describe it. Did you have a garden, how many bedrooms, did you share rooms, was the driveway long, where did you play, etc. Chores around the house or farm?

Do you work outside the home? Where and doing what? Why did you choose to do that?

What were/are your favorite things to do in Mower County?

What was life like when you were younger? In your 20s, 30s, 40s, etc.

Do you remember specific family events (first television purchase, parent going to war, family hardship, etc.)?

Did you serve in the armed services? What branch and what years? Involved in any major war, conflict, or secret mission/project? What did you miss while you were away (birth of a child, wedding, farm work, etc.)?

Were/Are you involved with any service organizations (Lion's Club, Kiwanis, etc.)? Do/Did you volunteer with any group or organization (historical society, Red Cross, etc.)? What years?

Do/Did you hold any political office (mayor, city council, township board, state senator, or the like)? During what years? What were some large issues that you had to tackle during that time?

Do you remember any major events or people in Mower County history? Describe what you remember.

NOTE: This is simply a starting point. You are encouraged to add more than this. Be sure to identify people by their full name and give dates including the year. Any detail you can think of in telling the story of your life in Mower County is helpful. DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING OUT, INCLUDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE! Any minute detail is just as important as the large details.