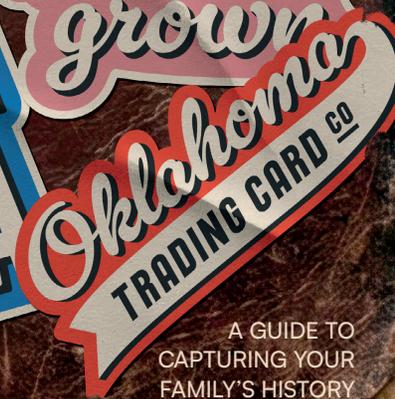


THE ULTIMATE
storykeeper's
field guide
FOR OKLAHOMA HISTORIANS

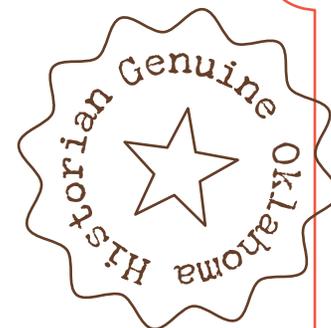


A GUIDE TO
CAPTURING YOUR
FAMILY'S HISTORY

Preparation

- Find a “Soft” Room:** Choose a space with carpets, curtains, or cushions to absorb echoes and prevent a “hollow” sound.
- Silence the Scene:** Turn off humming appliances, ceiling fans, and air conditioners before you hit record.
- Test the Distance:** Record a ten-second “mic check” with the phone 12 inches from the storyteller’s mouth to ensure the audio is good.
- Monitor the Levels:** Watch the waveform on your screen to make sure the “mountains” stay consistent and don’t hit the very top of the display.
- Make Backups:** Once finished, upload the file to a cloud service like Google Drive or email it to yourself so it’s safe if your device is lost.

ORAL HISTORY



certifies that the
_____ were
d and preserved on
_____.

Interviewer

CERTIFICATE OF

This document ce
stories of _____
officially recorde
_____ by _____

Storyteller

Pro Tips

- Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Start your prompts with “How did it feel...” or “Why do you think...” to avoid simple yes or no answers.
- Embrace Silence:** If they pause to think, don’t jump in immediately; the best memories often follow a few seconds of quiet.
- Follow the Rabbit Trails:** If a story takes an unexpected turn, stay with it—the unscripted moments are usually the “Golden Nuggets.”
- Request Sensory Details:** Ask what they smelled (like rain on hot dust) or heard to make the recorded memory feel three-dimensional.
- Don’t Distract:** Use nods and smiles to encourage them instead of vocal affirmations that might blur the audio.
- Ask for Names:** When they mention a friend or a local shop, ask them to say the name clearly so the history is preserved accurately.

