



NSCDA Oral History Initiative Suggested Interview Questions

The following questions may help you prepare for your interview. Vary them as necessary. Remember that interviewing is a personal thing and that which works for one may not work for another. Develop your own judgments, questions, and techniques.

Interviews may begin with a simple introduction:

"Today is (date). My name is [full name] and I am here with (full name) in (place) to learn more about (topic). We are interviewing under the auspices of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (in the State of _____). Thank you [name] for being here to tell us your story."

Childhood/Early years

1. Tell us about your family. Where were you born? Where did you grow up? Do you have any siblings? What were your parents' names?
2. What schools did you attend?
3. What were your interest/activities?
4. Where have you lived? Where do you live now?

Adulthood/Professional

1. How did you first become involved with.....?
2. May we have a copy of your c.v. or list of publications?
3. Who were the first people you worked with? How did they inspire and influence you? Who were your mentors/leaders? Who were others who worked alongside you?
4. What motivates you?
5. What were your philosophies or approaches then? Has your life's philosophy and/or approach to things changed over the years?
6. What do you feel is your legacy? Would you do anything differently?
7. Do you have suggestions for other people who should be interviewed for our Oral History archive?