



# *Solebury Township Historical Society*

## **ORAL HISTORY PROJECT FOR NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY STUDENTS**

This Oral History Project is a NH-SHS student volunteer program to support the mission of Solebury Township Historical Society (STHS), a non-profit organization.

STHS is working to expand its local resident's oral history collection by asking New Hope-Solebury High School (NH-SHS) students to seek out township and borough residents who have stories about our community. Students would offer interesting candidates the chance to tell their stories and would record these for historical interest and possibly for the STHS's web-based collection.

Students will be trained on how to approach candidates, talk to them about their stories, and record them. STHS is particularly interested in long-time residents, people who have particular insights into our community's associations and residents of historical interest such as artists, farmers, politicians, business owners, etc. Training would be 2 hours. Students would seek candidates or STHS will suggest people for interviewing.

### **This program has the following objectives:**

- Introduce students to the field of Oral History and their own family's genealogy. We hope to nurture the student's interest in their family's history and the history of our community.
- Gather for presentation interesting insights into our community's social, business, and political event histories.
- Provide a program to allow students to partially fulfill their community service requirements.
- Enable students to gain interview experience from the interviewer's point of view while working on questioning and listening skills.

### **Preparation and Training:**

1. Read the *Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide* at [http://www.folklife.si.edu/education\\_exhibits/resources/guide/introduction.aspx](http://www.folklife.si.edu/education_exhibits/resources/guide/introduction.aspx).
2. Listen to all or parts of at least two STHS oral histories, Maude Cathers and Harold McDonald, on the STHS web site <http://soleburyhistory.org/program-list/oral-history/>. We will discuss these as examples of what does and does not work well.
3. After reviewing materials in point 1 and 2, attend a 60 minute preparation/training discussion at the school library, after school hours.
4. At the preparation session be ready to share ideas of whom you would like to interview and what questions and topics you plan to discuss.

Interested students should contact:

Darcy Fair or Laura Kim

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