

**Seneca Historical Guild**  
**P.O. Box 27**  
**Seneca, IL 61360**

March, 2010

Hello from the Seneca Historical Guild...we are a group of local people who are working to compile historical information about our community. One of the group's goals is to produce a historical book prior to the 2015 Sesquicentennial Celebration and we are asking for your input on the project.

Enclosed is a questionnaire that we would like you to fill out. We are asking for you to share it with your spouse, friends and any family members that would be willing to share their thoughts. Please keep in mind, if one question triggers a special memory, or story that we have not included, please share it with us by including the story in your response. One of the most wonderful items that have been uncovered thus far is personal accounts of events that have happened in Seneca, please take the time to write about anything you wish to include and use additional paper if space is too limited for your answers.

Please fill out the questionnaire to the best of your knowledge and return it in the envelope provided. For your convenience, you may place the completed questionnaire in the water payment drop box located at the front of Village Hall *free* of charge. In addition, if you have any other information, photos, memorabilia, newspaper articles or items that you would like to share with the Historical Guild, either *loaned* or *donated* please indicate if you would like them returned and we will promptly do so.

The Seneca Historical Guild meets each month, third Thursday at 6pm *usually* at the Seneca Library; these meetings are open to the public and there is **no obligation** to attend. Please spread the word about this book project, the monthly meetings and/or our request for any information, memorabilia, photos, etc. Anything that can be copied will be returned promptly. If you or a family member has access to the internet, please visit the Village website at [www.senecail.org](http://www.senecail.org) there are updates, community events and Historical Guild information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Therese Russell at the Seneca Village Hall (815) 357-8771 or Margie Nolan at the Seneca Library @ (815) 357-6566.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,  
The Seneca Historical Guild

**Seneca Historical Guild  
Interview Questions**

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Seneca Historical Guild is sending this interview questionnaire to you in hopes of obtaining a better understanding of what our Village means to the people of our community... Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability, you are a part of our Village history and the information you provide will help the group to have a clearer understanding of our history; if you need to use an additional piece of paper, please do so. If any question below triggers a memory or story that you wish to share, please include it.  
Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

1. How long have you been a resident of Seneca? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What brought you to Seneca? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you are a lifelong resident, where were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How far back did your family live in Seneca? \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you are a lifelong resident, what childhood memories would you like to share?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was life like growing up in the Seneca school system? Do you recall your favorite teacher and why?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What other information would you like to share about growing up in Seneca?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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8. What do you miss about our town?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Tell us about what activities you did or attended as a youth in Seneca? (church, sporting events or festivities)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Do you recall any special events that took place in Seneca? Please describe the event and why it took place (box socials, parades, celebrations)**

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**11. In your opinion, what was the most exciting event you remember that took place in Seneca since you have lived here and please explain why**

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**12. Was there a special place in our town that you remember? Where was this place located and what was it called?**

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**13. What is the best change you have seen in Seneca and why**

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**14. Is there any Seneca community leader you would like to highlight? Any Village accomplishments that you would like to share with us?**

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**15. Explain what you know about any current or previous organizations in Seneca (American Legion, Lions Club or Sorority) what goals or special events did the group accomplish?**

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**16. What was life like during the Shipyard time? Please describe how Seneca changed during that time?**

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**17. Explain how businesses have changed through the years in Seneca, do you recall any unique experience or events that occurred at any Seneca Businesses?**

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18. Describe the 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Celebration, what special events do you recall?

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19. Please share your favorite Seneca story; please include any personal accounts of family members or friends that you may have also:

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20. What have we forgotten to ask? (please explain)

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Please *spread the word* about the Seneca Historical Guild, we are an enthusiastic group that wishes to collect as much information about our town as possible. Again for questions, please do not hesitate to contact Village Clerk Therese Russell at (815) 357-8771 or by e-mail at [clerk@mailseneca.org](mailto:clerk@mailseneca.org) as well as Library Director Margie Nolan @ (815) 357-6566.