Let Us Not Forget the Past:
How to Write an A.A. Group History

Compiling and writing your group's history can help you better understand how your group fits into the total A.A. experience, and you can see that it is a vital part of the living fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. An ideal group history includes descriptive data (when, where, type of meeting), specific information about who attended the first meetings, and details about the group's past experience, strength, hope, and tribulations. A Group History form is available on the Western Missouri, Area 39 website (wamo.org). A group's history will be more interesting if it is about people as well as facts. Who were the most unforgettable characters in the group? Which members have been the most dedicated and helpful? Look over the form on the archives website to get an idea of questions and topics to explore with your group and its members. There might be some wonderful stories in our area. Let's preserve these stories for those who come after us.

Talking to the Oldtimers in the group on a one-to-one basis may help discover the basics of who, where, and when. A face-to-face meeting of old-timers may be helpful, especially if there are conflicting details. With the members' consent, you should include their full names in the original history. The use of full names helps researchers and historians' separate members with similar or the same first name. Share your completed group history with old-timers and other members. When you feel your group history is complete, submit the Group History form online or download a printable form on the Western Missouri, Area 39 website (wamo.org). Mail your form to the Area 39 Archives, 311 W 80th Terrace, Kansas City, MO, 64114.

By the time you have finished, you will probably know more about your group's past experience and evolution than any other member.