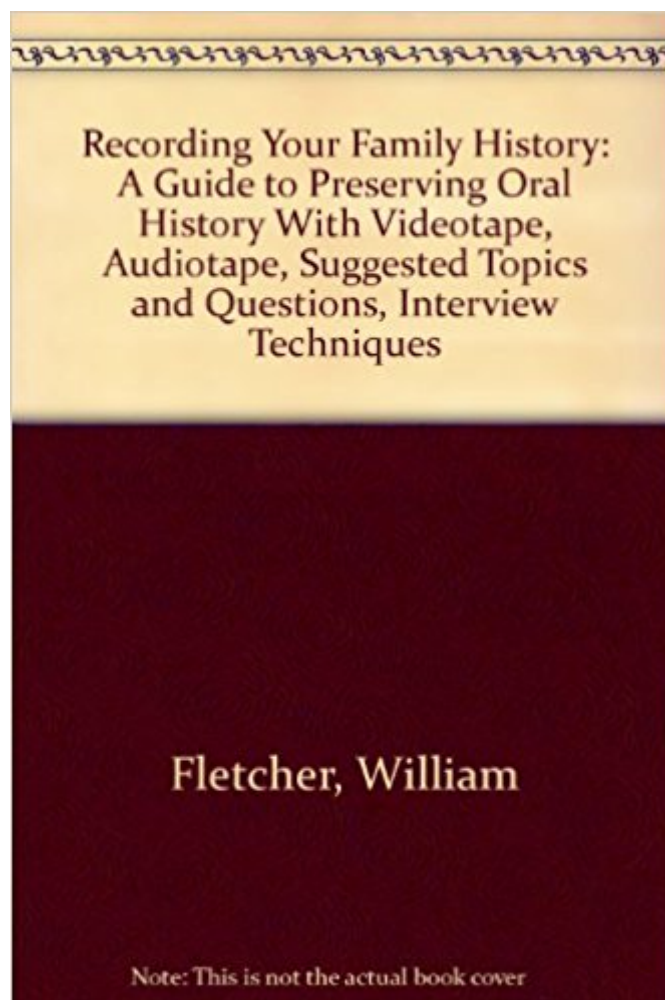




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# Recording Your Family History: A Guide To Preserving Oral History With Videotape, Audiotape, Suggested Topics And Questions, Interview Techniques





## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

YA A brief introduction to the use of videotape and audio tape in recording oral history is followed by 12 chapters of possible topics and extensive questions for interviewing relatives and friends.

Basically a workbook growing out of an earlier version, Talking Your Roots (Fletcher, 1983; o.p.), this will be useful for young adults seeking a common ground with the older generation to create a relaxed and informal yet meaningful interview. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

While this book is dated 1987, and references to technology are a bit out of date, this book is a gem. I use it as a motivator to encourage me in the process of doing interviews, and preserving family history. He calls it a "Life History Interview" and gives you more examples of questions than you would ever want to use. But his questions to use, and his approach to the process, sensitivity to the narrator's aversion to the technology, are right on. This book will spark your own insights and get you moving to preserve your own histories. The title of an earlier edition was "Talking Your Roots".

I'm working on doing a video where I interview my grandparents, then parents, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc. A lot of these books are pretty similar, but this one still had a lot of great prompts.

This is a good book for the family historian. Bill was a personal friend and a very interesting, man. He is missed by many.

Excellent!

This book helped me videotape my father's life. The questions in the book helped jog his memories of his life. It was a wonderful experience!

This was a great resource for someone just starting to work on their family history. It was a little simplistic for anyone who has spent many years pouring through old records.

The book is getting a little dated as time passes, but it still has more sample questions to help you get you family members talking than you will ever use. It's great because it has samples for different periods in ones life and it has questions for different periods in history.

William Fletcher sets the standard for instructions on doing oral histories. His advice on "how to" is concise and laced with experience. The thing that sets him apart from other writers is his exhaustive list of questions. The good-idea-fairy helped him build nearly 300 pages of great questions! It's impossible to ask them all but they give great lead to conducting numerous interviews to really cover your topic. I've used this book with my grandmother and have uncovered so many things she never told anyone about. I recently purchased the 1989 copy of this book and have the 1983 version at home (somewhere, that's why I needed another copy). There is also a 1986 version. All three are very similar and I don't really notice the differences other than in his explanations of equipment and use of video. Any of them would be a great purchase for use in guiding your questions.

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