



# Doing Veterans Oral History

A publication of the Oral History Association in collaboration with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project

By Barbara W. Sommer



**OHA**  
ORAL HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION

## About the Author

Barbara W. Sommer has over thirty-five years of experience in the oral history field. She has been principal investigator or director of a number of community oral history projects, has taught oral history, and has led many community and Veterans History Project workshops. Sommer is a long-time member of the Oral History Association (OHA) and is the author and co-author of several key publications in the field including *The Oral History Manual* (2nd edition 2009), *The American Indian Oral History Manual* (2008), the *Community Oral History Toolkit* (2013), and *Practicing Oral History in Historical Organizations* (2015). She holds degrees from Carleton College and the University of Minnesota.

## About the OHA

Since 1967, the Oral History Association (OHA) has served as the principal membership organization for people committed to the value of oral history. OHA engages with policy makers, educators, and others to help foster best practices and encourage support for oral history and oral historians. With an international membership, OHA serves a broad and diverse audience including teachers, students, community historians, archivists, librarians, and filmmakers.

OHA encourages standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, dissemination and uses of oral testimony. OHA has established the *Principles and Best Practices*—a set of goals, guidelines, and evaluation standards for oral history interviews. The OHA pamphlet series offers basic and useful information about planning, conducting, interpreting, processing, and publishing oral history programs and projects.

For more information about OHA, contact the Oral History Association at Georgia State University, P.O. Box 4117, Atlanta, GA 30302-4117. Email: oha@gsu.edu. Website: <http://www.oralhistory.org/>

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**Elvin E. Thomas Collection** (AFC 2001/001/33621); **Mary L. Weiss Hester Collection** (AFC/2001/001/32449); **Larry Schwab Collection** (AFC/2001/001/23979); Participants at a Veterans History Project workshop co-hosted with Senator Joe Donnelly (IN), Hamilton East Public Library, Fishers, IN; **Joseph Arden Beimfohr Collection** (AFC/2001/001/54904). Photos courtesy of Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

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