You can't know where you're going unless you know where you've been

OUR VIEW

Take a walk down any main street in Sussex County. It's a safe bet somewhere along that stretch is an old building, statue or a monument that is of some historical significance to the area. Have you ever wondered what that old building was when it was first built, or who that statue was supposed to commemorate?

Someone wants to tell you --if you'll listen.

Through programs such as Story Corps and Heart and Soul -- a program being launched by the University of Delaware to discover what is important to area residents -- experiences from the past are coming forward again. With audio and the written word, those who are best qualified to discuss the past are sharing it with younger generations.

But is anyone listening?

These people can share their memories with the world, but it's not important if nobody takes the time to listen to what they're saying. It's like the old adage about the fallen tree in the woods. If they talk about the past, but no one cares to listen, does it really matter?

The answer is simple: Of course it does.

There are so many parts of our area's history to be explored. There's the story behind Return Day in Georgetown, the memories of Selbyville's prowess in the strawberry market and the recollections of Lewes during World War II. Somewhere out there, someone is dying to tell us all about the proud traditions and stories of Sussex County.

They talk, and we should listen. We should take whatever stories they want to tell us, and remember them.

Whether history is relayed through a sound bite or a survey, everyone should take time to communicate the history of their family and community. Maybe one day, we can pass that information along to the younger generations and preserve the traditions we hold so dear.

So, what do you value most about Sussex County? By sharing your thoughts and listening to others, you may learn something about your past. After all, it's hard to know where you're going unless you know where you've been.