



MINNESOTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2022 Family History Writing Competition Entry Rules and Guidelines

Do you have a story to tell?
Have you found a solution to a family mystery?
Enter the MGS Family History Writing Competition!

Entries may be:

- Problem-solving Research
- Family Story

The winner in each of these two categories will receive a certificate, and will be invited to submit the entry for publication in the *Minnesota Genealogist* quarterly journal.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Topics must pertain to individuals and families with a connection to the Midwest, and preferably to Minnesota and surrounding states.
- Entrants need not be members of the Minnesota Genealogical Society.
- Judges and judges' immediate family members may not participate.
- Fiction will not be accepted.
- An entry must not have been previously published.
- An author may submit only one entry.
- Winner must grant permission for publication in the *Minnesota Genealogist*. Winning articles are subject to editing; the edited version is published only after review by the author.

CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS

Entries are judged on:

- readability and quality of writing: grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- a compelling topic
- suitability for publication in the *Minnesota Genealogist*; suggestions at mngs.org > EVENTS > WRITING COMPETITION

Family Story entries are also judged on:

- choice of an engaging story
- inclusion of historical, geographic, and cultural context
- source citations are optional; if included, footnotes are preferred

Problem-solving Research entries are also judged on:

- research and analysis adequate to solve a genealogical problem
- clarity of exposition and presentation of the *solution* to the problem
- a focus on the evidence and the results of research, rather than the research experience
- accuracy and consistency of source citations (footnotes preferred) for any statement of fact which is not considered general knowledge. Refer to Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*, or Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* for acceptable citation styles.

JUDGING

- An anonymous panel of judges will select winning entries.
- Judges will not know the identity of authors.
- Judges will contribute comments on every entry.
- Judges may designate entries for honorable mention and recommend their publication.
- MGS reserves the right to decline naming a winner if no entry meets judging criteria.

FORMAT

- Entries must be readable by Microsoft Word, in 12-point Times or Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins.
- Entries may not exceed 3,000 words, excluding footnotes.
- Number the pages and include the article's title on each page.
- Create Arabic-numbered footnotes using your software's automatic footnote feature.
- Include a cover sheet with the author's name, mailing address, phone number, email address, entry title, word count, and category.
- Do not submit photos or graphics. Indicate on the cover sheet if photos are available for publication.
- Tables may be included to support a conclusion. Place tables after the text, and preceding any footnotes. Within the text, refer to tables by number, e.g., "Table 1."
- If a subject of the entry has the same surname as the entrant, replace it with "*Lastname.*"

SUBMISSION

- Each entry has two files: 1) a cover sheet, and 2) narrative text and any footnotes.
- Email the entry, no later than 1 July 2022, to: writingcontest@mngs.org
- The winning entrant(s) will be notified on or before 1 September 2022.

PUBLICATION

- The author retains copyright to the entry, but grants permission to the Minnesota Genealogical Society to publish the entry in the *Minnesota Genealogist* quarterly or other publications until 31 July 2023. Before that date, entries may not be published or reprinted elsewhere without the joint permission of MGS and the author.
- *Entries selected for publication will be subject to editing.* The editors of the *Minnesota Genealogist* work with the authors to achieve the best possible presentation of the work, and reserve the right to edit winning entries for space or other considerations. No changes will be made without the permission of the author, but MGS reserves the right to withhold publication of an article if the author does not consent to editorial changes.

Questions? Contact: writingcontest@mngs.org

Minnesota Genealogy Center
1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100
Mendota Heights MN 55120
651-330-9312
www.mngs.org