
2021 Ohio Genealogical Society Writing Contest

1 September - 31 December 2020

OGS is sponsoring its genealogical writing contest to reward amateur and professional genealogical authorship and to help fill the pages of its renowned journals with articles. All entries fitting the criteria will be considered for publication in *Ohio Genealogy News* (OGN) or the *Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly* (OGSQ). OGS Editors will make final decision on which publication the article will appear.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

\$100 Grand Prize for highest scoring article in either category

When the Grand Prize is awarded from a category, the next highest winner that category will become the 1st prize winner for the category.

OGSQ - Category 1

\$75 1st Prize for highest scoring article
\$50 2nd Prize for next highest scoring article
\$25 3rd Prize for next highest scoring article

OGN - Category 2

\$75 1st Prize for highest scoring article
\$50 2nd Prize for next highest scoring article
\$25 3rd Prize for next highest scoring article

In addition, each prize winner will receive a one-year membership to the Ohio Genealogical Society. Following is a description of the criteria for material accepted by these two journals:

Category 1:

Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly includes archival articles about people who came to Ohio, lived in Ohio, died in Ohio or passed through Ohio on their way West. The historical time period covers pre-statehood to the 1940 census. Article length may vary from 750 words to 5000 words including endnotes. (3-10 single-spaced pages). Images are requested when available. (No more than 5 images). Suggested article types might include:

- Family history along with the genealogy of those who came to and/or lived in Ohio.
- Historical journals, sets of letters, hand-written histories or Bible Records transcribed with added material about the author and the people mentioned within the documents.

- Military history of Ohio people and units, military record groups. Early wars through WWI.
- Ethnic ancestry or settlements in Ohio.
- Religious groups that migrated to and through Ohio.
- Research to prove an Elusive Ancestor.
- Research to prove an ancestor for one of OGS's Lineage Societies.

Category 2:

Ohio Genealogy News welcomes articles on newsworthy and human interest topics in the genealogy world. Article length may vary from 750 words to 2500 words including endnotes. (2-5 single-spaced pages). Images are requested when available. (No more than 5) Suggested article types might include:

- Feature Articles. Topics may have an anniversary or seasonal slant; describe newly available record sets (in archives or online); or introduce the genealogy collections of Ohio repositories.
- Methodology (how-two) articles are welcome for both individual skill-building and OGS chapter growth.
- Technology-related methodology articles are particularly requested.
- Historical features (e.g. Poorhouses in Ohio). The topic must have wide interest and should introduce genealogically-interesting records.
- Success Stories. This is a great place for genealogical hobbyists to share their research journeys. Write about a specific experience you've had breaking through a brick wall, discovering a new ancestor, or getting to know a relative through their personal writings.
- Local Spotlights. These short pieces introduce an Ohio county, city or OGS chapter or affiliated organization. May include a brief local history, description of ongoing chapter activities or projects. Might contain a description of local genealogical resources and repositories (include websites and digital resources).

See 2021 Contest Guidelines for more information on how to submit an entry.

Entries for the 2021 contest will be accepted from 1 September 2020 through 31 December 2020 and must be submitted according to the Ohio Genealogical Society Writing Contest Rules and Style Guide posted on the OGS Website or by e-mail request to writingcontest@ogs.org.

For questions please contact writingcontest@ogs.org.

The Ohio Genealogical Society Writing Contest Rules and Style Guide 2021

Returning this year! Two categories: 1) OGSQ and 2) OGN – Prizes for both categories.

Authors may submit up to two entries per contest. Submissions must be original writing and must not have been previously published in other publications including journals, books, or online. Heavy use of “Cut and Paste” from the Internet is not permitted. Submission to this contest constitutes permission to publish in *OGSQ* or *OGN*. Contest judges reserve the right to disqualify entries that have been previously published (online or in print) or do not follow submission rules including proper formatting of citations, excessive cut and paste and adherence to copyright laws.

Winning articles will be featured in appropriate OGS journals. Editors of the OGS journals will determine the appropriate journal for each winning entry. Non-winning articles will be published as deemed appropriate by the editors. The contest is open to all OGS members as well as non-members. Both amateur and professional writers may submit articles.

Authors will be notified when their entries are received. Winners will be announced via e-mail letter, during the OGS Conference Saturday Annual Meeting and in OGN. OGS may choose not to award all prizes, depending on the quality of entries received.

Criteria

Entries will be judged on three criteria. Judge’s comments will be returned upon request.

1. Accuracy: 0 - 15 points
(accuracy of factual statements; genealogical and historical errors; correct source citations)
2. Clarity-writing mechanics: 0 - 20 points
(clarity and flow of the writing; author’s thoughts well-organized; grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, and word usage; clichés, qualifiers, platitudes, overused words and excessive punctuation; failure to adhere to required formatting criteria)
3. Overall impact and interest: 0 - 15 points.
(article’s depth and insight, and the writer’s ability to capture the subject; uniqueness, drama, and creativity in telling the story or reporting the facts; the judge’s subjective response to the story. Does it stand out from the others)

Total possible points awarded by each judge is 50 points. Articles must score at least 30 points to be eligible for a prize.

Articles must be properly cited following the guidelines in standard works by Elizabeth Shown Mills, Chicago Manual of Style, or MLA. See article from FamilySearch on how to cite genealogical articles. <[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Cite_Your_Sources_\(Source_Footnotes\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Cite_Your_Sources_(Source_Footnotes))>

Formatting

Text

1. Font: Times New Roman.
2. Size: 12 points.
3. Color: Black only.
4. Margins: One inch on all sides.
5. Spacing: Single spacing with space between paragraphs.
6. Text must not contain any formatting.*
7. All articles should be saved in either Rich Text (rtf) or MS Word (doc or docx) formats.
8. Sources must be properly documented using **manually inputted** endnotes.

Easy Way to Create Manual Endnotes

1. Create a document called Endnotes. Write and number your endnotes here.
2. In article, place the number where you want the endnotes to go. Highlight the number, right click your mouse, click on Fonts, click on superscript and then hit OK.

It actually does not take any more time than using auto endnotes. It takes editors a lot longer to correct the auto endnotes than you doing them this way. This is why the judges will knock a lot of points off for not following this rule.

* Because *OGN* and *OGSQ* are set in a magazine format, please **do not use** any kind of **automatic features** such as outlines, tables, bullets, page numbering, headers, footers, endnotes or footnotes. You can use manual tabs instead of a table. You can insert a symbol instead of using auto bullets.

Images

1. No more than five for short or long article.
2. Do not embed images in the article or in separate Word file. (See #4)
3. All images must be in 300 dpi jpg format (no borders).
4. Images must be sent in individual separate pdf files numbered Photo 1, etc. OGS will not publish images that require copyright fees, so don't use an image unless it is public domain, cited source should be included.

3. Within the article, denote image placement in this manner: Insert Photo 1 (name of image with caption including cited source).

Entering the Contest

Entries for the 2021 Contest will be accepted, by e-mail attachment only, from 1 September through 31 December 2020.

Include the following information on a separate cover page for each entry:

1. Author's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address.
2. Brief biography and author photo suitable for publication with the article.
3. **Do not** put your name on the article itself; only the title. All articles are judged anonymously.
4. Please mention if it is your first time entering a writing contest.

Send entry via e-mail attachment, with article, cover page and all images [sent as separate files], to writingcontest@ogs.org. Please put *2021 Writing Contest* in the subject line.
