2022 Ohio Genealogical Society Writing Contests

OGN Contest (1 Jul 2021 – Sep 30 2021)

OGSQ Contest (1 Sep 2021 – 31 Dec 2021)

(NOTE: Two separate deadlines this year!)

The Ohio Genealogical Society annually sponsors a genealogical writing contest to reward amateur and professional genealogical authorship and to provide opportunities for publication in its journals. All entries fitting the categories, rules, and style guide (see below) will be considered. Prize-winning articles will appear in *Ohio Genealogy News* (OGN) or the *Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly* (OGSQ). OGS editors will make the final decision as to which publication is the more appropriate outlet for a given article. All non-winning articles will be considered for publication in OGN and OGSQ. For questions, please contact <writingcontest@ogs.org>.

SUBMISSION RULES
The contests are open to both members and non-members of the OGS, and to both amateur and professional writers. Authors may submit two entries for each contest. Submissions must be original writing not previously published in journals, books, or online outlets. Submitting an article constitutes permission to publish it in OGN or OGSQ. All entries must follow the OGS Writing Contest Rules and Style Guide in this notification; posted on the OGS Website; or obtained by email request to <writingcontest@ogs.org>.

HOW TO ENTER
1. Only entries sent by email attachment will be allowed.
2. Include the following information on a separate cover page for each entry:
   a. Author's name, address, telephone number, email address.
   b. Brief biography and author photo suitable for publication with the article.
   c. Do not put your name on the article itself; only the title. All articles are judged anonymously.
3. Please mention if this is your first time entering a writing contest.
4. Send entry via email attachment, with article, cover page and all images [sent as separate jpg files], to writingcontest@ogs.org. Please put 2022 Writing Contest in the subject line.

DEADLINE
Entries for the OGN 2022 contest will be accepted 1 July 2021 through 30 September 2021. Entries for the OGSQ 2022 contest will be accepted 1 September 2021 through 31 December 2021. Authors will be notified when their entries are received. Winners will be announced via e-mail, during the 2022 OGS Conference Saturday Annual Meeting, and in OGN or OGSQ.

PRIZES
A maximum of seven prizes will be awarded. The OGS may choose not to award all prizes in a given year, depending on the quality of entries.

Grand Prize of $100 for the best article overall.

Contest 1 Prizes (OGN)	Contest 2 Prizes (OGSQ)
$75 1st Prize	$75 1st Prize
$50 2nd Prize	$50 2nd Prize
$25 3rd Prize	$25 3rd Prize

In the contest from which the Grand Prize winner is chosen, the next best article will become the 1ˢᵗ Prize winner.

Each prize winner will also receive a one-year membership in the Ohio Genealogical Society.

CONTEST DESCRIPTIONS

Contest 1 OGN - Newsworthy and human interest articles of 750-2500 words, including endnotes, suitable for OGN. These articles may be about any topic of interest to OGS members and other readers of OGN. Some examples would be:
- Feature Articles 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 Articles on topics such as how to build individual skills or increase membership in OGS chapters. Technology-related pieces are particularly encouraged.
- Historical essays (e.g. Poorhouses in Ohio) with wide appeal introducing genealogically-interesting records.
- Success Stories such as a research experience leading to the discovery of a new ancestor or a deeper understanding of a relative through their personal writings. This is a great place for genealogical hobbyists to share their research
- Local Spotlights are short pieces introducing an Ohio county, city or OGS chapter or affiliated organization. They may include a brief local history, description of ongoing chapter activities or projects, and a description of local genealogical resources and repositories (include websites and digital resources).

Contest 2 OGSQ - Archival articles of 750-5,000 words, including endnotes, suitable for OGSQ. These articles may be about people who lived in, came to, died in, or passed through Ohio from the per-statehood period through the 1940 census. Examples of article types would be:
- Family histories along with sourced genealogies.
- Transcriptions of documents such as journals, diaries, letters, hand-written histories and Bible records accompanied by information about the authors, people, places, and events mentioned in the documents.
- Military histories of Ohio people and units, identification of military record groups. Early wars through WW1 are permitted.
- Studies of ethnic or religious groups in Ohio including migration into or out of Ohio.
- Research to identify an elusive ancestor or an ancestor for one of OGS's lineage societies.

JUDGING CRITERIA
Entries will be judged on three criteria.
1. Accuracy: 0 - 15 points
   (Accuracy of genealogical and historical facts; validity of sources)
2. Clarity-writing mechanics: 0 - 20 points
   (Clarity and flow of the writing; organization and coherence of thoughts; correctness of grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, and word usage; avoidance of clichés, platitudes, overused words, verbosity, and excessive punctuation; failure to adhere to the style guide as specified below)
3. Overall impact and interest: 0 - 15 points.
   (Depth, 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: does this article stand out from the others?).

Total possible points awarded by each judge are 50 points. Articles must score at least 30 points to be eligible for a prize. Judges' comments will be provided upon request after the contest is completed.

STYLE GUIDE

Text
1. Submission format: either Rich Text (rtf) or MS Word (doc or docx).
2. Font: Times New Roman.
3. Size: 12 points.
4. Color: Black only.
5. Margins: One inch on all sides.
5. Spacing: Single spacing with space between paragraphs.
6. Auto features: avoid them (such as outlines, tables, bullets, page numbering, headers, footers, endnotes). For example, use manual tabs instead of a table or symbols instead of auto bullets.
7. Avoid "cut and paste" from the internet. Articles should be in writer's own words.

Citations and Sources

1. Follow 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)

2. Use manually inputted endnotes
    a. Create a document called Endnotes. Write and number your endnotes here.
    b. In the article, place the number where you want the endnote to go. Highlight the number, right click your mouse, click on Fonts, click on superscript and then hit OK.
    c. Endnote document can then be inserted into the main document at the end of the article.

3. Avoid sources not based on primary documents or firsthand experiences.

4. Avoid heavy use of "cut and paste" from the internet.

Images

1. Limit yourself to no more than five, whether for a short or a long article.
2. Use 300 dpi jpg format (no borders).
4. Do not embed images in the article. Create separate jpg files numbered Photo 1, etc.
5. Within the article, denote image placement in this manner: Insert Photo 1 (name of image with caption including cited source).
6. Use only images in the public domain and cite sources. OGS cannot publish images that require copyright fees.