

2021 WMGS Writing Contest

~ Scandals in the Family ~

Within every family there is likely a story of scandal, whether having documented proof or not. As genealogists, we want to scour the archives, online databases, and newspapers to find the evidence of these (sometimes) tall tales. Tell us your stories of scandals in the family - no matter how big or little.

Write it up and enter the 2021 WMGS Writing Contest.

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society has worked for over 60 years to educate researchers in evaluating and citing sources. Your story may inspire someone else to use new research techniques or discover a unique resource. The 2021 WMGS Writing Contest will recognize unpublished excellent genealogical writing by awarding substantial prizes. Prize winning entries will be published in *Michigana*. Like all submissions to *Michigana*, entries will be thoroughly edited before publication. Information about submitting any article to *Michigana* can also be found in the latest issue of *Michigana*, or at wmgs.org.

Rules for the WMGS Writing Contest

Eligibility: All family historians and genealogists, except the *Michigana* Editor and judges, are invited to submit their favorite story for the contest. There is no entry fee and membership in WMGS is not required.

Length: Stories should be between 1,500 and 3,000 words in length. Please cite your sources by using endnotes and attach copies of documentation when appropriate. Family group sheets and pedigree charts should be included if pertinent. Endnotes, documentation, photograph descriptions, and chart information will not be included in the word count.

Formats: Entry must be completed in Microsoft Word. ****IMPORTANT:** If you include your photographs, charts, or graphics within your document, please also send them **separately** as 300 dpi tiff or jpeg files.**

Identification: Include the story title, your name, mailing address, phone number, and approximate word count in the body of the email. This information will only be used to identify and notify the winners. Other than the title, this information does not need to be included within your entry.

Deadline: Entries will be accepted between January 1 & March 31, 2021.

**Email your submission to MICHIGANA@WMGS.ORG with
“WMGS WRITING CONTEST 2021” written in the Subject Line.**

Notification: Contest winners will be announced at a WMGS Membership Meeting before the end of 2021, on the WMGS Facebook Page, and in the next available issue of *Michigana*. Each entrant will also receive an email with the results of the WMGS Writing Contest at the time of the announcement. Winners do not have to be present to win. Prize winning articles will be published in future issues of *Michigana*. By submitting articles, authors are giving WMGS one-time print & digital rights and are aware that submission will be edited by *Michigana* staff prior to printing; copyright is retained by the author. Entries may not have been previously published. All prizes may not be awarded.

Prizes:

1st prize: \$100 and 1 annual WMGS membership (total value - \$120);
2nd prize: \$75 and 1 annual WMGS membership (total value - \$95);
3rd prize: \$50; 4th prize: \$25

Want help or feedback?

The WMGS Writers Group meets the third Tuesday of the month and we would love to help you make your story the best that it can be.

For information about location, time, and directions go to: wmgs.org

For further information or any questions about the Writing Contest, please contact the *Michigana* Editor, at michigana@wmgs.org.