

Minnesota Genealogical Society  
**2012 Michael Clark Family History Writing Competition**

**Contest Rules**

New this year, the contest accepts entries in two Award Categories:

**Research Article**, demonstrating family history research and problem-solving.

**Family Story**, engaging the reader in persons, place, and time.

1. Entries must be postmarked no later than 15 July 2012; electronic entries will not be accepted. The winning entries will receive Michael Clark Family History Writing Awards at the MGS Awards Banquet on October 5, 2012.
2. Submit four copies of the entry, on 8 ½ x 11" paper, not exceeding 3000 words in length, typewritten or computer-printed in 10 or 12 point type and comfortably spaced (double-spaced is fine.) Entries will not be returned.
3. Include one cover sheet showing Award Category (**Research Article** or **Family Story**), author's name, mailing address, phone number, email address, title, word count, and the number of pages. Place the title and page number on each page. The pages should not be stapled or bound. MGS will number each entry and separate the cover sheet from the entry to insure anonymity.
4. Only the cover sheet should contain the author's name. If a subject in the entry has the same last name as the entrant, that surname should be replaced with the word *Lastname*. Judges will excuse themselves from judging a paper if they can identify the author through the story content.
5. Entrants need not be members of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. Judges and judges' immediate families may not participate. One entry per individual, please.
6. Entries need not pertain to Minnesota, nor to the author's own family. Fiction will not be accepted.
7. The entry must not have been previously published.
8. A panel of independent judges will select winning entries. All entrants will receive judges' comments. The identity of the judges will remain confidential. MGS reserves the right to omit an award in either category if no entry meets publishing criteria.
9. **All entries** will be judged on the basis of writing quality and readability; originality and choice of topic for reader interest; form (grammar, spelling, punctuation); and suitability for publication. The sources of important information should be identified in the text or in endnotes.
10. **Research Article entries** are additionally judged on evidence of family history research, quality of problem-solving analysis, and adequacy of source citation. Sources should be cited for all material facts that are not common knowledge.
11. The author retains copyright to the submission, but grants permission to the Minnesota Genealogical Society to publish the entry in any of its periodic or special publications until 31 July 2013. During that time, entries may not be published or reprinted elsewhere without the joint permission of MGS and the author. MGS reserves the right to edit entries for space or other considerations.
12. Mail your entry, postmarked by 15 July 2012, to:

MGS Family History Writing Competition  
1185 Concord St. North, Suite 218  
South St. Paul MN 55075