



American Ancestors®

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

About *American Ancestors*

American Ancestors is published four times a year by American Ancestors. The primary audience is our individual and institutional members.

The magazine features a wide range of article topics and styles, and is designed to appeal to family historians of all levels. Topics include research case studies; descriptions of particular record sets; “how-to” articles; compelling historic accounts that illuminate the past; and research strategies and methodology.

We welcome submissions from both experienced authors and beginning writers.

Types of articles we encourage:

- Research case studies that illustrate how particular research problems were solved
- Coverage of genealogical resources in a particular geographic area
- Discussions of important and/or little-known record sources
- Accounts of distinct groups of people from the past and corresponding records of interest to family historians. For instance, we’ve featured articles on tuberculosis sanatorium patients, Shakers, Germans in New England, and genealogical records that relate to those topics.

Types of articles we avoid:

- Articles consisting solely of transcribed primary or secondary sources
- Comprehensive multi-generational genealogical treatments (Such articles may be suitable for our sister publication, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.)
- Book reviews
- Editorials
- Articles that have been previously published, either in print or online. Please do not submit an article that you are also submitting to another publication or website.

We do not provide monetary compensation to our authors. Contributors receive complimentary copies of the issue in which their articles appear.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR *American Ancestors* magazine

Keep in mind:

- Word counts range from about 500 words (one page) for feature articles to 3,000 words for cover stories. Most articles are two to four pages.
- Family relationships and details that are clear to authors may be difficult for others to understand. Please review material carefully for potential confusion; if possible, ask someone who is not familiar with your ancestry to review prior to submission.
- For documenting sources and constructing endnotes, we suggest referring to *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the online Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide (chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

The proposal process:

- Become familiar with the magazine and the type and scope of articles. Past issues may be found online at AmericanAncestors.org/american-ancestors-magazine, or you may request an issue.
- Write a brief proposal, no more than a few paragraphs in length, summarizing your anticipated article and what it will accomplish. Email it to magazine@americanancestors.org.
- If your idea is of interest to the editors, you will be asked to write an article. You’ll be given an approximate word count and a mutually agreed-upon deadline. Once your article is complete, we prefer that you submit it via email using Microsoft Word. (Do not use style sheets in Microsoft Word or embed images.)
- You will sign a letter of agreement in which American Ancestors is granted a perpetual non-exclusive right to publish. You retain copyright and can republish the article elsewhere if the editors of *American Ancestors* are consulted and the original *American Ancestors* article is cited.
- After the article is received by *American Ancestors*, the editorial team will review it. Usually, an email exchange follows in which questions are asked and explanations are provided. The article will be edited for clarity and to conform to *American Ancestors* house style.
- You’ll be asked for input on illustrations that accompany your article.
- Shortly before the issue goes to press, you’ll receive the article via email for a final review.

If you have questions or would like to submit a proposal, please contact us at magazine@americanancestors.org.

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