

Writers Guidelines for *Chronicle* and *Michigan History*

HSM Publications

- *Michigan History* has been published since 1917 and is the state's popular-history magazine. With a subscriber base in the low-20,000s, it is passed along again and again so that approximately 100,000 people read every issue. Edited for history buffs as well as history professionals, it features stories of all kinds from the Great Lake State's diverse past and explores the history and heritage of all Michigan's peoples. About 50 manuscripts are accepted for publication in the magazine each year.
- *Chronicle* is the membership publication of the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) and has a total distribution of approximately 6,000 copies. The magazine is a 40-page, full-color publication that is devoted to exploring the history and heritage of all Michigan's peoples and offers special sections that highlight HSM's members. About 25 manuscripts are accepted for publication in the magazine each year.
- Published since 1974, *The Michigan Historical Review* is the only scholarly journal devoted to telling the history of the state. About 30 manuscripts are accepted by publication in the *Review* each year.

General Guidelines

- HSM Publications does not accept fictional stories or personal opinion pieces.
- All work must be original, and the author(s) must own the copyright.
- If you have never written for HSM Publications, please familiarize yourself with the magazines' style before contacting us.
- HSM Publications slates issues at least six months before their publication dates. If you have an article that you believe would fit a certain issue, you should start the query process at least 10 months before that issue.
- *Michigan History* and *Chronicle* are not scholarly journals; please do not send academic papers for consideration in either magazine. Those interested in submitting academic papers should follow the Submission Guidelines for *The Michigan Historical Review*.
- Articles need to be written in third person. First-person viewpoint is allowed in only the "Remember the Time," "History Revealed," and "History How-To" Special Sections.
- We will only consider subject matter that takes place in 1987 or earlier. We will not publish articles on topics that have taken place within the last 35 years.
- Manuscripts submitted for consideration must include footnotes or endnotes.
- You may submit your article for a particular magazine or section, but HSM reserves the right to assign the article to the audience/publication that fits it best.
- Please note: With our quest for diverse subject matter and because we slate our magazines six months before their publication dates, it can take from 6 to 18 months to see your article in print once it is accepted for publication.
- HSM Publications will accept up to four manuscripts per year per author.

- We are especially seeking articles on the following subjects: agriculture, rural life, arts and culture, people of color, businesses, entrepreneurs, women, pre-statehood heritage, and the Great Lakes and rivers of Michigan.

Send Us an Email Query

- This rule applies to all sections of *Chronicle* and *Michigan History*. We do not repeat topics and/or subject matter. Submitting an emailed query will prevent your writing an article that has already been covered and is therefore will be ineligible for consideration.
- HSM Publications rarely reprints an article and/or subject matter that was previously published in other periodicals. If your article and/or subject matter has been previously published in a periodical, please contact HSM for more information. As a result of this policy, we do not accept simultaneous submissions.
- If you are a book author and would like to submit an article on your book's subject matter, please keep the following in mind: 1) the article should be an adaptation of your book, rewritten for HSM magazines, and 2) the article should not be a word-for-word excerpt or lifted paragraphs rearranged to make an article.
- Queries should be sent to editor@hsmichigan.org with the subject line "HSM Publications Article Query."
- Your query should 1) include a synopsis of the proposed article, 2) note your background or credentials for writing the article, and 3) indicate if you want to submit an article for a specific section.
- Include in your query if high-resolution photos are available to accompany your article. Authors are encouraged to provide illustrations or suggestions for image sources. Please note that HSM is unable to reimburse you for any expenses you incur in obtaining photographs.
- HSM Publications may also ask for writing samples for new authors before requesting a manuscript.
- Your article idea will then go before the Editorial Committee for approval or disapproval. Please allow 4-6 weeks for a response on a query.

Submit Your Manuscript

- If your article idea is approved by the HSM Publications Editorial Committee, you will be asked to email a manuscript for review along with your sources.
- All manuscripts **MUST** be accompanied by a list of multiple primary and secondary sources to be considered.
- As of March 1, 2022, authors must submit their sources as footnotes or endnotes. Although these will not be published in the final version, they are required for fact-checking purposes.
- Please note that a request for a manuscript is not a promise that your article will be accepted for publication.

- Once submitted, your manuscript will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee and potentially sent to a subject-matter expert. This process can take 8-12 weeks.
- As the author, you retain the copyright for your article. You are, however, required to sign and return a form giving us permission to publish the article exclusively from the date of signing the permission form up to the date of publication and for one year after publication and nonexclusively thereafter. The permission form is sent once an article has been slated to appear in a particular issue. Our office must have the signed form in hand before the publication process can begin.
- Articles will be professionally edited for grammar, clarity, and length. Authors will have the chance to review the edited article before publication.

Bylines and Author Blurbs

- Bylines will consist of only the author's name. Titles and degrees can be listed in the author blurb.
- Author blurbs are limited to 30 words. Blurbs should contain only biographical information. Email addresses, phone numbers, URLs, and other contact information will not be included. Author-provided blurbs will be edited to fit HSM specifications.

Feature Articles

- Manuscripts should range in length from 1,500 to 2,500 words.
- Topics for Feature Articles should revolve around Michigan history-related subjects, and a significant amount of the articles' content should take place within Michigan. The Editorial Committee may make exceptions for stories of people whose Michigan identities figured prominently in events that took place outside of the state. We welcome articles about people from Michigan, but again, a significant amount of the content should involve their contributions to the history of Michigan or how their time in Michigan influenced their lives. (Please also see our "Profiles" section for articles about individual people, especially if the person is not a Michigander or if the individual only spent a short time in the state.)
- Feature Articles should approach a subject by finding an interesting angle to explore, rather than just listing its history.
- *Michigan History*: Payment for a published Feature Article depends on the length of the finished edited article and whether the author is a member of HSM and/or a subscriber to *Michigan History*. The payment range for members/subscribers is \$150 to \$350. The payment range for non-members/subscribers is \$100 to \$300. Non-members/subscribers also receive a complimentary one-year Household Membership to HSM, which includes *Michigan History* magazine.
- *Chronicle*: Payment for a published Feature Article depends on the length of the finished edited article and whether the author is a member of HSM. The payment range for members is \$75 to \$125. The payment range for non-members is \$50 to \$100. Non-members also receive a

complimentary one-year Household Membership to HSM, which includes *Michigan History* magazine.

- Authors of published Feature Articles will receive 5 complimentary copies of the magazine in which their article appears.
- Sample articles can be emailed to you upon request.

Focus on Michigan: Two-Page Special Section in *Michigan History*

- Manuscripts should range in length from 1,000 to 1,200 words.
- This section highlights a specific item, entity, or group in Michigan. A “Focus on Michigan” article can include subjects/topics such as the history of a town or community, an ethnic group, an institution, a business, or an item of local interest.
- Pieces about people for “Focus on Michigan” should revolve around groups of people rather than individuals. Please see our “Profiles” section for articles about individual people.
- It should take only 1,000-1,200 words to tell the history of the specific item, entity, or group. If it requires more words, please see our “Feature Article” section.
- Payment for a published “Focus on Michigan” will be \$100 and 5 complimentary copies of the magazine.
- Sample articles can be emailed to you upon request.

Remember the Time: Two-Page Special Section in *Michigan History*

- This essay-like article should range in length from 700 to 1,000 words.
- These articles are written from the first-person point of view and should focus on a single event in the author’s life, such as an experience or outing from childhood, college, or work.
- The memory or event must be Michigan-based and should take place in 1986 or earlier.
- Payment for a published “Remember the Time” will be \$50 and 5 complimentary copies of the magazine.
- Sample articles can be emailed to you upon request.

Remembering Our Heritage: Two-Page Special Section in *Michigan History*

- “Remembering Our Heritage” articles range in length from 1,000 to 1,200 words.
- This section aims to explore how people today are remembering, advancing, or exploring Michigan’s history.
- Due to the nature of the section, it can contain content that takes place within the last 35 years, but the article must still revolve around a historical topic.
- Payment for a published “Remembering Our Heritage” will be \$100 and 5 complimentary copies of the magazine.
- Sample articles can be emailed to you upon request.

Profiles: One-Page Special Section in *Michigan History* and *Chronicle*

- Manuscripts should range in length from 500 to 700 words.
- Articles for our “Profiles” section should present people who have made a contribution to our Great Lakes State—large or small. Also acceptable would be articles about how Michigan made a lasting impression upon a visitor or short-term resident.
- The person should be a historical figure. We will consider articles about people still living, but they need to be at least 70 years old, and the bulk of the content covered in the article needs to take place prior to 1986.
- Payment for a published “Profiles” in *Michigan History* will be \$50 and 5 complimentary copies of the magazine. Payment for a published “Profiles” in *Chronicle* will be \$35 and 5 complimentary copies of the magazine.
- Sample articles can be emailed to you upon request.

History Revealed: Article-Length Special Section in *Chronicle*

- Manuscripts should range in length from 1,500 to 2,000 words.
- Stories for our “History Revealed” section should show Michigan’s history from a “behind the scenes” viewpoint.
- In articles for “History Revealed,” the journey is as important as the destination. In other words, “History Revealed” looks at the research that was done and all the results and surprises along the way.
- “History Revealed” articles can be from either a first-person or a third-person point of view.
- Payment for a published “History Revealed” depends on the length of the finished edited article and whether the author is a member of HSM. The payment range for members is \$75 to \$125. The payment range for nonmembers is \$50 to \$100. Nonmembers also receive a complimentary one-year Household Membership to HSM, which includes *Michigan History* magazine.
- An author of a published “History Revealed” will also receive 5 complimentary copies of the magazine in which his or her article appears.
- Sample articles can be emailed to you upon request.

History How-To: Article-Length Special Section in *Chronicle*

- Manuscripts should range in length from 1,500 to 2,000 words.
- This educational-style article should enlighten the reader about a historical subject, product, or item.
- Articles can also show and/or include directions on how a goal, project, or product was accomplished and/or made and how others can do the same.
- “History How-To” articles can be from either a first-person or a third-person point of view.
- Payment for a published “History How-To” depends on the length of the finished edited article and whether the author is a member of HSM. The payment range for members is \$75 to \$125.

The payment range for nonmembers is \$50 to \$100. Nonmembers also receive a complimentary one-year Household Membership to HSM, which includes *Michigan History* magazine.

- An author of a published “History How-To” will also receive 5 complimentary copies of the magazine in which his or her article appears.
- Sample articles can be emailed to you upon request.

Photo Essays: Either magazine

- Photo essays for *Michigan History* and *Chronicle* magazines should follow the description found in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary: “a group of photographs arranged to explore a theme or tell a story.” Photos submitted should be high-resolution and aesthetically pleasing since they are the driving force of the article. Accompanying text for each photo should be approximately 25 to 100 words and should give readers background information about that image.
 - Like a Feature Article, a photo essay should educate readers by telling a story about Michigan’s past or heritage. The payment structure of a photo essay also parallels that of feature articles. Those who wish to submit a query for a photo essay should also include a sample photo and accompanying text.
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We are also seeking IDEAS for two one-page special sections in *Michigan History*. HSM staff members write and produce these two sections, but we need your input with the background information and photos:

Then & Now: One-Page Special Section in *Michigan History*

- The “Then & Now” section is a pictorial comparison of a historical location or object in Michigan. Photographs, accompanied by brief descriptions, depict how the item appeared in the past and how it appears today—good or bad.

Facts & Finds: One-Page Special Section in *Michigan History*

- This section features the history behind an interesting, an unusual, or a one-of-a-kind artifact. The article also highlights the museum that houses the artifact. The museum or historical site that houses the artifact must be a member of the Historical Society of Michigan to be featured.

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