



Genealogical Forum of Oregon 2012 Writing Contest

“Taking a Stand”

Why enter?

You may never get around to writing down your family stories!

The GFO Writing Contest encourages you to:

- Write an engaging story that future generations will enjoy, and
- Base your story on good, sound research.

Requirements

- Piece must be written to the theme: “Taking a Stand” — tell the story of your ancestor, a hero in a conventional way or going against the tide.
- Your story must be factual, with suppositions clearly indicated.
- Documentation in the form of endnotes or footnotes is **required**.
- **Length** — 2000 to 5000 words
- Story must be submitted in electronic form — Word or RTF file, submitted as an email attachment or saved to a CD or floppy disk.
- Submitted from November 1, 2011 to February 1, 2012. **Please do not submit before November 1st.**
- Plan ahead and make a concerted effort to attend the award presentation at the GFO Monthly meeting on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

Judging Criteria

- A factual story built around the theme
- A story that engages the reader
- Good use of language, including smoothness of the writing
- Convincing research – genealogical and background

Need Help?

- Attend GFO's Writers' Forum or other writing group, for feedback on your writing; or form your own group.
- Read Sharon Carmack's *You Can Write Your Family History* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2003).
- For citing sources: Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence: Analysis for the Family Historian* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997) and Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007).

Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Title of your story _____

GFO Member?

Yes. Membership No. _____

No. Please enclose check for \$10 made out to Genealogical Forum of Oregon or GFO



Instructions

By e-mail: Give the information requested in the form above and submit your story as an e-mail attachment to peggy.baldwin@family-passages.com and if you are a non-member mail your \$10 check to Peggy Baldwin, GFO Writing Contest, at the address given below.

OR

By mail: Submit this form, along with your story in Microsoft Word or RTF (rich text file) format on a floppy disk or burned to a CD. Remember to enclose a check for \$10 if you are not a member of GFO. Send to the following address :

Peggy Baldwin
GFO Writing Contest—2012
Genealogical Forum of Oregon
P O Box 42567
Portland, Oregon 97242

Writing Contest Awards

- Winners will be announced at the GFO's Monthly Meeting on April 14, 2012. Please plan to attend.
- Winning articles will be published in the GFO's *The Bulletin* and on the GFO Web site.
- Winners will receive gift certificates to Portland's Powell's Bookstore (www.powells.com).

Questions?

E-mail Peggy Baldwin at peggy.baldwin@family-passages.com or visit the GFO web site at <http://www.gfo.org/writingcontest/index.htm>.