

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Henry E. Plett Memorial Award for Family Histories

PURPOSE:

To promote and encourage the writing and publication of research in family history.

ELIGIBILITY:

Any high school student in the province of Manitoba.

AWARDS:

The awards shall consist of two cash prizes:

First prize: \$350.00

Second prize: \$200.00

JUDGING: Members of the Genealogy Committee of the MMHS serve as judges and may call on others to assist them. Teachers will be notified of the winners at their schools in June.

EVALUATION:

Submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

- The originality (to researchers) of materials presented.
- The initiative and originality evidenced in the presentation.
- Acceptable English language usage expected at high school level, with attention paid to spelling, syntax (including grammatical rules), sentence structure, and punctuation.
- Neatness and orderliness of the completed project.

Guidelines

- The first page of the submission should indicate the title of the project, the name, address, grade level, and age of the student, and the names of the teacher and school.
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- The length of the submission is to be a minimum of 2000 words, or 10 pages, double-spaced.
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- The project should show evidence of student research into Mennonite family history. Students are encouraged to use their initiative and imagination in locating source materials. Examples of sources include:
 - family records, such as diaries, correspondence, entries in Bibles, written memoirs, etc.;
 - oral interviews;
 - genealogical centres, archives, and libraries;
 - statistical records such as church, school, or state records of vital statistics, etc.

Evidence of research should be shown by the inclusion of a family tree or chart, standardized footnoting and a bibliography citing all sources.

DEADLINE: Submissions must be mailed no later than **April 30** to:

Anabaptist Theology and Mennonite History

Family History Paper Guidelines



Guidelines

- Title page; title of paper, student name, date, class name, teacher's name.
- The length of the submission is to be a minimum of 2000 words, or 8 pages, double-spaced.
- The project should show evidence of student research into your family's history.
- Students are encouraged to use their initiative and imagination in locating source materials
- Students must use a variety of sources
- Must have a minimum of one of EACH of the following: interview, primary document, and a historical text.
- Examples of sources include:
 - family records, such as diaries, correspondence, entries in Bibles, written memoirs, letters etc.
 - oral interviews
 - genealogical centres, archives, and libraries;
 - statistical records such as church, school, or state records of vital statistics, etc.
 - primary documents such as birth, marriage, death certificates; ship manifests, land titles, etc.
- Appendix: At the end of your paper include a family tree or chart (minimum four generations), labeled pictures. You can also include photocopied primary documents.
- Citation – refer to most sources in the text. Footnoting or in-text citation no necessary. Bibliography citing all sources.

Form and Content

You can tell the story of one family member, from birth to death, focusing on the events in their life that impacted them and their family. Put their life in context: causes and effects, movements, political and economic factors, and most importantly, the role faith and religion played in their life.

You can also focus on more than one individual, for example following a grandfather, son and grandson and the moments in their lives.

Do not try to talk about every family member, or write a summary of an entire a family. Focus on the story to be told: stories are tragic, joyful, embarrassing, and enlightening.

Some do's and don'ts:

- You can refer to yourself: "If I were to trace back my family tree"
- You can call people by their relational name "my Opa", but then refer to them by their name without the relation "Diedrich Bocshman was born in Stuartburn Manitoba."
- Acknowledge sources in the text
 - "To clear up some details, I went to see my Oma's sister...."
 - "My Oma liked him very much, "He was a good Dad" she told me."
 - "Adina's husband Diedrich, told us a story he had heard from a Mrs. Toews..."
 - "Anne's sister, Mary, described him a being strict,..."
- Acknowledge what you don't know:
 - "Adina doesn't know why Eduard hadn't tried to escape as well, perhaps..."
- Provide historical context
 - "The government made the residence [sic] pay heavy taxes until they could not [sic] longer afford to live there and had to leave. (Many Mennonites from this area left Russia for Canada in the mid-1920's)"
 - See page 18 of "Survival in the 20th Century"
- Do not use contractions, colloquial language, slang,
- Do not copy previously written material you found a family history book. That is plagiarism. You can use it as a source, but you must add, comment on, and repackage the information. Do not trust it to be 100% correct. That historian was limited to the sources they found- you find more!

Due Tuesday January 17th

January 17th and 18th will be sharing part of their research to the class.

Contest Note to Anabaptist Theology Students:

Semester One

- A mark of 5% on the project will be levied to those quality papers that are submitted to the contest.
- Project can be edited after January 17th date and then submitted, through Miss Duerksen, prior to February 7th. Any projects submitted after February 7th will not be able to receive bonus marks.

Semester Two

- A mark of 5% on the project will be levied to those quality papers that are submitted to the contest.
- Project must be submitted for marking by April 9th to Miss Duerksen. Papers will then be returned for editing. Then return papers for mailing by April 26th.

Family History Paper Assessment



Name _____ total _____/60

Content

- Ideas clear and developed for purpose:
e.g. Thesis is stated
Theme is employed
- Specific organization of ideas for purpose:
e.g. chronological/pairing/comparison/
headings/chapters/
transitions
beg, middle and end.
- Voice/tone employed for purpose:
e.g. storytelling

____/15

Research

- Originality/creativity of research
- Variety of research: interview, primary documents, historical texts.
- Use of sources
- Family Tree- to four generations.

____/15

Language Use and Grammar

- Canadian Spelling, syntax (grammatical rules,
sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization _____
- Language is consistent and purposeful for purpose _____
Language is professional _____

____/10

Citations

- Complete properly formatted Bibliography _____
- Sources properly and clearly referenced (identified) in text. _____

____/10

Formatting

- Neatness and professionalism _____
- Title page: title of paper, student name, _____
date, class name, teacher's name.
- Min 2000 words (8 pages _____)

Appendix (optional)

____/10