



MILITARY HISTORY
WORLD WAR II
WILD WEST
AMERICAN HISTORY
CIVIL WAR TIMES

VIETNAM
AVIATION HISTORY
AMERICA'S CIVIL WAR
BRITISH HERITAGE

GUIDELINES FOR PROSPECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS

WEIDER History Group, located in Leesburg, Va., publishes nine historical magazines: *American History*, *America's Civil War*, *Aviation History*, *British Heritage*, *Civil War Times*, *Military History*, *Vietnam*, *Wild West*, and *World War II*. All are bimonthly with the exception of *World War II*, which is published 10 times a year. Prospective contributors should be familiar with the individual magazines before querying. *America's Civil War*, *World War II* and *Vietnam* cover strategy, tactics, personalities, arms and equipment for the applicable period. *Military History* deals with war throughout human history. *Aviation History* covers military and civilian aviation from man's first attempts at flight to the jet age. *American History* provides insight into the cultural, military, political and social forces that have shaped our nation and is aimed at a general audience. *British Heritage* explores the cultural legacy and historical impact of the British Isles. *Civil War Times* examines the war and its personalities, but also the social and material context of the era. *Wild West* covers the American frontier, from earliest times through its westward expansion.

Historical accuracy is imperative. We do not use fiction or poetry. We do not publish reprints.

STYLE: The two paramount considerations in all WEIDER History Group publications are absolute accuracy and highly readable style. Give proper attribution in the manuscript when using another author's work and cite your major sources for our review. We like to see action and quotes where possible to heighten reader interest.

QUERY: Submit a short, self-explanatory query summarizing the story and its highlights. Also state your sources and expertise. Cite any color and black-and-white illustrations and primary sources of illustrations (museums, historical societies, private collections, etc.) you can provide. Please put complete name on **every** photo submitted. Photocopies of suggested illustrations are extremely helpful. Illustration ideas are an **absolute must**. The likelihood that articles can be effectively illustrated **often determines the ultimate fate of manuscripts**. Many otherwise excellent articles have been rejected due to a lack of suitable art. **All submissions are on speculation and must be accompanied by an SASE if you want your submission and your disc returned. Sample copies cost \$6 each. Xerox copies of articles cost \$2 each.**

FORMAT: We strongly urge authors to submit computer disks (3 1/2 x 5 floppies or compact disks) with their manuscripts. These must be IBM or Macintosh compatible. Disc or e-mail copies of the manuscripts should be text only (without imbedded images or graphics). Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced on one side of standard white 8 1/2 x 11, 16- to 30-pound paper. Name, address, telephone number and Social Security number must be on the first page of your article. Indicate sources and suggested further reading at the end of your manuscript. Include a 1-2 paragraph autobiography. Address your submission to the appropriate magazine, Attention: Editor, c/o WEIDER History Group at the address listed below.

LENGTH: Feature articles should be 3,000-3,500 words in length and can include a 500-word sidebar. Departments should be 1,750 words or less. WEIDER History Group retains the right to edit, condense or rewrite for style.

PAYMENT: Payment, which is made 30 days after publication, varies by magazine and ranges from \$300 for *World War II* features to \$400 for *Military History* features (including sidebar) and \$150 to \$200 for departments. We also use book reviews, payable at a per-published-word rate, with a minimum payment of \$40. WEIDER History Group buys exclusive worldwide publication rights, and the right to reprint the article in all languages, in hard copy or through electronic means, at no additional cost. Payment for Web site only article usage is set at 50% of the applicable magazine rate. We do not pay for Web site reprint use.

REPORTING TIME: Please allow six months' response time for queries and manuscripts. If you want immediate verification that a submission has been received and is being considered, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard containing the title of your submission. Be forewarned that in some cases we have a 2-year backlog of scheduled manuscripts.

WEIDER History Group
741 Miller Drive SE, Suite D-2
Leesburg, Virginia 20175

Visit our World Wide Web site,
TheHistoryNet, at
<http://www.thehistorynet.com>

WEIDER HISTORY GROUP EDITORIAL PHILOSOPHY

WEIDER History Group is committed to creating accurate, entertaining, and informative magazines, books, and products. It is our responsibility to ensure the loyalty and confidence of our customers by maintaining the highest editorial standards. To this end, our editorial content is never used as a sounding board for political partisanship, religious points of view, or social agendas. Our mission is to present an undistorted view of history and to encourage understanding and appreciation for the events, personalities, and artifacts of the past.

Just as writer's guidelines provide the mechanical requirements for submission of a manuscript, the following tips are intended to provide more subjective guidance for the preparation of copy that is editorially "clean" and enjoyable to read.

- Please give the reader a little excitement, some sense of being there, with lively—**but always factual**—anecdotes. Lead with one of these, if possible, to foster the reader's interest in seeing more of your story and to let him or her know that here is an article that is worth reading.
- Know what the reader expects from the publication in terms of subject matter and style of writing. Be very careful to keep technical terminology in the proper context.
- Start most paragraphs with a simple, active sentence—so many begin with As, When, Because, After, or other passive openers. Active writing keeps readers' eyes open. Our aim is to bring life to history, not to use it as a bedtime soporific. The same goes for "...ing" verbs; use them sparingly, as you do sleeping pills, to which their effects are related.
- Provide each paragraph with more than one sentence, except to make an occasional emphatic point. Break a paragraph before it runs on and takes up half a page.
- Keep to your story, and tell one story at a time. If there is a related aside, put it into a sidebar rather than break the flow of the main story.
- Maintain a smooth flow of information. It's fine to begin with an attention-getting action lead and a flashback, but from then on proceed straight through the story rather than jump around chronologically. If you make it difficult for the reader to follow your story, he will desert you; if you do that to the editor, he will protect his readers from a similar experience.
- Watch your spelling and grammar. You may be an expert in your subject, but your credibility can be shattered by sloppy copy.
- When you—either in exhaustion or exultation—finish the last keystroke, never, never rush the manuscript into the mail in an I'm-so-glad-to-be-finished dismissal. Put the manuscript aside and out of your mind at least overnight; then get back to it in a day or two and play editor. Go through the entire manuscript slowly, thoroughly and critically and correct all spelling errors. **Question the spelling of every name—person, thing, company—all of them.** Make sure you have included **full** name and rank/title for every person mentioned. Read through the manuscript as if you were the reader who has never seen it before and does not know what you are trying to get across. Does it flow smoothly? Does it say what you want it to say? Does it proceed logically through a basic beginning, middle and end? Is it simple and clear rather than flowery and hobbled by descriptive adjectives? **Are your facts straight?** Check how presentable the final, assembled package is. Make it professional, not pretty. Do not dress it in fancy folders or tie it with ribbons. Keep your manuscript straight, neat and clean.
- What you are doing here is just what the editor will do when he receives your material. His job is to select quality material that will hold the interest of his readers. If your submission is unprofessional, it may be returned unread with a standard rejection letter. A professional presentation of a well written and researched manuscript has a better chance of being reviewed and seriously considered. From then on, the appropriateness of the subject, the writing and the facts will influence whether the editor believes your manuscript will please the reader—and will determine its acceptance.
- Keep your facts straight.

WEIDER HISTORY GROUP
741 Miller Drive, SE, Suite D-2
Leesburg, VA 20175

FREELANCE PHILOSOPHY

Prospective contributors should submit a concise self-explanatory query summarizing the article and describing its highlights. Successful queries include a description of sources of information and suggestions for color and black-and-white photography or artwork. The likelihood that an article can be effectively illustrated often determines its ultimate fate. Photocopies of suggested illustrations with sources are extremely helpful. **Telephone queries are not acceptable.**

Completed manuscripts will be reviewed; however, they **must be double-spaced** and accompanied by an **SASE**. **The author's name, mailing address, day and evening telephone numbers and social security number must appear on the title page of the article.** Manuscripts must be typed or printed in letter-quality type, double-spaced on one side of **standard white 8 1/2 x 11**, 16 to 30-pound paper—no onion skin or dot-matrix printouts. Staple or paperclip the manuscript—manuscripts in binders are **not** acceptable. Authors should include a brief biography, a description of their expertise in the subject matter and suggestions for further reading. Relevant clips are also helpful. **Inclusion of an IBM or Mac compatible disk copy** of the manuscript increases its chance of acceptance and should accompany a hard copy of the article. Your IBM or Mac compatible disk **will be returned to you.**

The best way to break into our magazine is to write an entertaining, informative and unusual story that grabs the reader's attention and holds it. We favor carefully researched, third-person articles or firsthand accounts that give the reader a sense of experiencing historical events. **We do not publish fiction, poetry or reprints.** Manuscripts with misspelled words, poor grammar, weak leads, partial names, unsupported statements or unattributed quotes are rejected out of hand.