

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

General Guidelines for Manuscript Submission to the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society

The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes scholarly articles examining the history and culture of Kentucky and its people. Fiction and poetry are not considered, and neither in most cases is material that has been previously published. Genealogy/family-history articles should be directed to [Kentucky Ancestors](#).

The editors cannot judge article ideas or abstracts; full, completed manuscripts must be submitted for consideration. Submission of a manuscript by no means guarantees that it will be published. Manuscripts undergo a rigorous review process, and only some are chosen for publication. For others, rewriting and resubmission may be recommended.

Authors of potential articles for the Register need not be professional historians, but all should understand that their work will be judged by professional historians and held to high scholarly standards. Manuscripts passing the initial review by the Register staff are sent to scholars with expertise related to the article topic for double-blind peer review. This means that the scholars are not told the identity of the authors and authors are not told the identity of the reviewers. This process can take several months.

Subject Matter

The subject matter of potential articles can range widely, from broad-based studies to local topics or biographical pieces. Any time period is acceptable, from the presettlement era to modern times. The Register also publishes edited and annotated diaries, collections of letters and oral-history transcripts.

There should be a Kentucky connection to the article, but the main action may not necessarily take place in Kentucky. For example, there are articles about Kentuckians in military service overseas or politicians working in Washington, D.C. The Register will also consider articles on broader, regional themes, such as Appalachia, which have a significant Kentucky component.

Manuscript Format and Length

Authors interested in submitting manuscripts for consideration by the Register are strongly encouraged to look at recent issues to note the style and format. Style should conform to the scholarly standard, the Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition). The Register uses the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (11th edition) for questions of spelling and hyphenation. Manuscripts should be double-spaced in a standard font with footnotes instead of endnotes if possible. The author's name should not appear on the title page.

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Articles should be no more than 10,000 words, not including notes. The editors may consider longer manuscripts, but they may require substantial cuts before they can be accepted for publication.

Illustrations and Maps

The editors of the Register will consider the use of illustrations and maps which significantly and substantively enhance submitted articles. Authors are responsible for supplying publication-ready artwork, photographs or illustrations (digital image files preferred) as well as obtaining and paying for the necessary permissions and reproduction rights for both print and online use. Authors are responsible for supplying suitable captions and credit lines.

Acceptance, Copyright and Publication

If a manuscript is accepted for publication, the author is expected to sign a standard journal copyright agreement. It is the author's responsibility to obtain the necessary written permissions to quote from unpublished documents, to quote extensively from published material and to use illustrative material.

Authors receive 15 offprints of the article and five copies of the issue in which it appears.

Manuscript Submission

Authors should submit articles in digital form to:
Nelson L. Dawson, editor
The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society
Kentucky Historical Society
100 West Broadway
Frankfort, KY 40601-1931

For further information, contact Nelson L. Dawson by e-mail at nelson.dawson@ky.gov or phone at 502-564-1792.