

# AMERICAN LEGACY

M A G A Z I N E

KNOW YOUR HISTORY.



## WRITER'S GUIDELINES

*American Legacy* is a quarterly magazine of African-American history. Our articles focus on the people and events that have shaped the course of life in the United States (with the exception of the Cultural Crossroads department, please see below)—we use the past to illuminate the present.

### What We Are Looking For

We welcome the contributions of freelancers, but suggest that ideas for articles be submitted in a detailed one- to two-page proposal to our editors in advance. *We are looking for features and profiles of national appeal*; local articles should in some way have a theme of interest to all readers. The article “The Persistence of Princeville (Summer 2001), about an early incorporated black town in North Carolina besieged by bad luck, but surviving nonetheless, would be a good example of this.

*We are looking for unusual people, unusual places, often unsung and unheralded*, not stories that have been told over and over again. For example, although the Tuskegee Airmen and the Negro Leagues certainly deserve their rightful place in history, they have both been written about extensively and we would be very unlikely to accept an article on them. If you do choose a well-known subject, then a fresh angle or new revelation will give your article a better chance.

We do not publish fiction or poetry.

We do not publish opinions, essays, or editorials.

*We do not publish articles about family members unless they have enough historical significance and national appeal.*

*Go easy on topics such as the Civil War and Civil Rights* as we have covered both extensively and like to think that black history in America is more than just the period between 1861 and 1965. *We would love submissions on writers, artists, scientists, early entrepreneurs, explorers, mavericks, individualists.*

*Do not shy away from a topic because you think it might be too controversial*—please send your proposal, nothing is guaranteed, but we’ll take a look

You should be well versed and passionate about your subject—you should demonstrate a good working knowledge about your topic and the article should be well researched and annotated.

In the end, a study of past issues of *American Legacy* will be your best aid with regard to length and manner of treatment. Any suggestion or submitted manuscript should be accompanied by a

self-addressed, stamped envelope, but please understand that due to the volume of submissions that we receive, we cannot guarantee the return of unsolicited materials.

We regret that we are unable to send sample copies.

### **Cultural Crossroads**

In an effort to bring *American Legacy* readers a bit of the history and culture of black people throughout the world, we have opened a department called "Cultural Crossroads."

Cultural Crossroads will reach beyond the borders of African-American history into Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South Americas, and any place on earth where black men and women have had an impact.

The short, 750-1,500 word articles will cover everything from African Cooking in the Americas, to special holidays and festivals, museum and art exhibits, traditions and folkways, music, literature, dance, and more. But please do not confine yourself to these topics, as we are also looking for subjects such as sociology, politics, and current events in a historical context.

***RESPONSE TIME** can be anywhere from immediate to several weeks, but we will make every effort to get back to you as soon as possible. Please wait at least 30 days before contacting us for a response (if the proposal is time-sensitive, then please indicate this in your cover letter). Please note that we cannot return any materials unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please do not send original photographs or documents of any kind.*

### **If We Decide To Buy Your Article**

When submitting your manuscript, you must annotate your text and include a bibliography and photocopies of your research materials. This serves as a tremendous help for fact-checking purposes. We also ask that you send your manuscript as a Microsoft Word file. If your computer is not Mac-compatible, please send your article as a Text file. If you have an e-mail account, send your manuscript to [apeterson@forbes.com](mailto:apeterson@forbes.com).

We would also like a brief biographical note about you. Our rates vary and depend on the length of the piece and the nature of the subject. Maximum length is 3,000 to 4,000 words but we are also interested in shorter pieces.

### **Please send submissions to:**

Audrey Peterson  
Editor  
American Legacy  
7 West Broad Street  
Suite 201  
Mt. Vernon, NY 10552  
[apeterson@americanlegacymag.com](mailto:apeterson@americanlegacymag.com)