

Mennonite Genealogy, Inc. Research Grant Application
29 October 2024

Mennonite Genealogy, Inc. (MGI) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage interest in Low German Mennonite and Hutterite genealogy. The organization offers a grants program to individuals and institutions/organizations that supports projects related to its purpose. Projects could include:

- The acquisition of primary materials or copies thereof of interest to Low German Mennonite and Hutterite genealogists, such as church, census, civil, and immigration records.
- The extraction of genealogical data from these materials.
- The publishing of genealogical data from these materials.
- The preservation of primary archival documents related to Low German Mennonite and Hutterite genealogy.
- Conferences/seminars related to Low German Mennonite and Hutterite genealogy.

Grants are awarded based on proposed project's relevance to the purpose of Mennonite Genealogy, Inc., the feasibility of the project, and the deliverable outcome of the project.

Awards will be made semi-annually by the organization's board of directors. Expedited applications will be accepted where there is a time-sensitive opportunity or the documents in question might be in peril.

The next application deadline is 1 February, 2025 with award announcements by 1 March.

Applicant Information

Name of Individual / Institution / Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please provide a brief description of yourself and/or your institution or organization. This may include the mission or purpose of your institution/organization or your own background, your historical research activity, and your accomplishments.

Project Description

Please provide a brief description of your project, including the purpose of the project or program funding being requested, and relevant information about the feasibility of the project. Please also address how your project pertains to the purpose of Mennonite Genealogy, Inc. and the importance of the project to the Low German Mennonite and Hutterite genealogy community.

Proposals will be evaluated by the MGI Grant Committee appointed by the MGI Board. The criteria will include:

- the importance of the information to be acquired to genealogists, historians, and the Low German Mennonite and Hutterite community.
- the commitment of skills and time to the project by the principal investigator and by co-investigators or contractors.
- the quality and completeness of the plan for the acquisition, organization, and publication of the acquired information.
- a plan to digitize and house the obtained information in the archives of a Mennonite center and to make it available in a digital format that is publicly searchable; this should be demonstrated with a letter of support from the director or archivist or a Mennonite centre. The Mennonite Genealogy Resources website (mgr.mennonitegenealogy.com) will always be available for these documents.

Project Financials

Up to \$15,000 US may be awarded in a single grant. Funds will be distributed after expenses have been incurred and receipts for expenses have been received.

Specify the amount requested from Mennonite Genealogy, Inc., summarize the total cost of the project, and list all other funding sources, including in-kind donations, if applicable.

Requirements and Restrictions

- Funds may not be used for salaries of the principal investigator (for example, North Americans employed as university/college faculty).
- Funds may be used for research assistants, both North American and beyond, who are paid hourly or on a limited contract basis.
- Funds may be used to cover travel costs and accommodations.
- Documents that are acquired must be digitized, housed, and available online in the archives of a Mennonite center and in a publicly searchable format, unless restricted by the source archive (documents must still be available for private research purposes).
- The grant may last for up to three years (extensions may be granted upon request).
- A brief progress report (less than one page) is required each year.
- A final report will include accomplishments, itemized expenditures, and the online location of the resultant information and documents if applicable.

Proposals should be emailed to mgiGrants@mennoniteGenealogy.com. Please attach files in pdf format of the following: budget, CV, and additional documents that can include letters of support.

Public information regarding these grants, including lists of awardees, will be posted to mgi.mennonitegenealogy.com/grants.