

First Families of Williams County Application

Williams County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 293
Bryan, OH 43506

WCGS USE ONLY	
FFWC Number	_____
Date Received	_____
Acceptance Date	_____
Fee Received	_____
Dues Paid	_____

Instructions to Applicants:

Do Not Write in Shaded Areas. All applicants must complete an application showing their Williams County, Ohio pioneer ancestor(s), and documenting their descent from the pioneer ancestor(s) who resided in Williams County prior to or as of December 31, 1860. The application must include copies of ALL documents with sources necessary: 1) to prove pioneer ancestor(s) settlement in Williams County; 2) prove each step of descent from the pioneers to the applicant; and 3) one-time fee of \$10 that covers all ancestors applied for now and in the future.

Applicant's Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

If this is supplemental application, write your First Families member number here _____

ANCESTOR(S) OF THE APPLICANT WHO WERE SETTLED IN WILLIAMS COUNTY, OHIO,
ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1860

<u>Ancestor(s) Names</u>	<u>First Year Proved</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____

WCGS USE ONLY	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____

Certification

I, _____, do hereby swear/attest that the statements set forth in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant

_____ Date _____

Approved by:	
FFWS Chairman: _____	Date: _____

5. The said _____ is the _____
 _____ Son or Daughter Doc
 of _____
 born on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 died on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 _____ his wife.
 born on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 died on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 married on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc

6. The said _____ is the _____
 _____ Son or Daughter Doc
 of _____
 born on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 died on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 _____ his wife.
 born on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 died on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 married on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc

7. The said _____ is the _____
 _____ Son or Daughter Doc
 of _____
 born on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 died on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 _____ his wife.
 born on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 died on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 married on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc

8. The said _____ is the _____
 _____ Son or Daughter Doc
 of _____
 born on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 died on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 _____ his wife.
 born on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 died on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc
 married on _____ at _____
 _____ City County State Doc

OBJECTIVE

The prime objective of the First Families of Williams County (FFWC) is to identify the early inhabitants of Williams County and to honor their descendants. The research necessary to prove descent is intended to stimulate increasing interest in the pioneers of this county, as well as customs, culture and history.

REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must be a member in good standing of the Williams County Genealogical Society. The applicant may become a member of the First Families of Williams County by PROVING descent from a pioneer ancestor who settled in Williams County on or before December 1860. The applicant must complete an application and mail to: Williams County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 293, Bryan, OH 43506, along with documentation and the \$10 fee which covers all ancestors that the applicant can prove now and in the future. Deadline for acceptance of applications will be April 15 with recognition ceremonies held in June of each year.

1. A direct line from applicant to pioneer ancestor must be documented at every step. Collateral descent is not applicable. Adopted children do not qualify as a step in lineage; bloodline descent only is acceptable.
2. All documents must state their source. Documentation is required for each date step of descent from the pioneer ancestor to the applicant. Proof may not be omitted for any step. Bible records must include a photocopy of the title page with publication date and current owner's name and address.
3. Typed, handwritten or printed copies of original documents MUST be certified as a "True Copy" by a courthouse or other official, or a librarian, etc. An applicant or member of his or her family CANNOT certify a document as a "True Copy." Photocopies of original documents are acceptable as copied if there are no changes on the original.
4. Primary or collateral evidence from vital statistics, courthouse, or other government records, church and school records, etc. are considered excellent documentation.
5. Secondary evidence, such as census records, newspaper clippings, old letters, Bible or other family records, CONTEMPORARY TO THE FACTS REPORTED are considered almost as authentic and are accepted.
 - Pre-1880 censuses cannot be used as sole proof of relationship.
 - Pre-1850 censuses cannot be used as sole proof of residency for anyone other than the head of household.
 - Newspaper clippings must be identified by the name of the newspaper and the date the clippings appeared.
 - Book references must give volume and page and include a photocopy of the title page and pertinent pages for identification.
6. Circumstantial evidence, implied facts or hearsay, will NOT be accepted as documentation unless supported by primary or secondary evidence.
7. Oral, written or published family traditions may be in error and CANNOT be accepted as documentation. Material authored by the applicant or a member of his or her family CANNOT be considered as proof.
8. Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical records or compilations, family group sheets and charts, family reunion records and similar material are NOT considered as documentation. Unsupported information from an amateur or professional genealogist is not acceptable, including such records printed in any genealogical, historical or similar publication.
9. Lineage papers, accepted or unaccepted, from other patriotic or hereditary societies will NOT be considered as documentation. The document copies used for proving the lineage might be considered proof IF they follow these rules of evidence.

10. Information taken from Internet resources must be acceptable evidence in its original form. The original source and the URL must be fully cited. Examples:
 - Images of actual documents and records that are available online are acceptable but must include the original document citation and also the URL citation.
 - Transcriptions and abstractions from websites such as Heritage Quest, Ancestry and many genealogical organization sites are considered acceptable evidence but must have the original source fully cited as well as the URL citation and be accompanied by a copy of the original document if available. Website information will be judged on an individual basis by the individual lineage society chair(s) as to the credibility of the data presented.
 - The IGI may be used as a finding aid to original records. Every attempt must be made to obtain the original record rather than to use the IGI citation as proof.
 - Ancestral File (and similar undocumented genealogical databases) information is not acceptable.
 - The Social Security Death Index (and similar documented or governmental indexes) may be acceptable.
11. Documents MUST, either alone or with other acceptable documents, ACTUALLY STATE THE FACT TO BE PROVED. Examples of implied proof which are not acceptable are:
 - Unnamed individuals specified in court records as “heirs” or “heirs-at-law” was used in some states. This indicates different things in different states, but in no case found is it used as an indication or proof of direct descent. The statement could mean nieces, nephews, cousins, adopted children or even parents.
 - Census records which show the name of the head of the family only, along with numbers of family members or others by age group, prove only the family head actually named. Next door neighbors on a census or tax record do not prove any relationship by themselves.
 - A father is not proved as being in an area just because his child was born there. The birth only proves the mother was there.
12. Old letters or family records can be accepted as documentation ONLY for the facts that the writer could logically know as CONTEMPORARY KNOWLEDGE. Identification of the writer and the date is necessary. They cannot be accepted as proof for facts the writer could only have obtained by heresay from older generations or other sources.
13. Land transactions (deeds, warrants, grants, etc.) and tax records can only be accepted as evidence of settlement in Williams County if the record actually states that the individual was “of the county”.
14. Female Ancestors must be proven as individuals by their maiden name.
15. Married female applicants must include a copy of their marriage record to document their change of name. Each legal name change must be documented.
16. Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
17. This application, information and all supporting documents and data become the property of the Williams County Genealogical Society. If the applicant would want sensitive documents like the certificate of a living individual, it is the applicant’s responsibility to include a SASE with sufficient postage and indicate which document(s) they want returned.