

First Families of Richland County

Rules of Evidence

The rules of evidence applying to membership in First Families of Richland County, Ohio follow and use the standards by which all FFORC proof is judged. **There are no exceptions.**

The nature and extent of the evidence submitted as proof in all applications shall be sufficient to prove that the applicant is directly descended from the pioneer(s) named in box B of the FFORC application blank, and sufficient to differentiate between two persons of the same name residing in the same area at the same time. Proof must be included to show residence in Richland County, Ohio before Jan. 1, 1840. **Documentation MUST be provided for each date listed**, even if only an approximation (e.g. born c. 1810 per 1850 census).

Basic Rules

1. All applicants must be current members of the Richland County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.
2. Primary or collateral evidence from vital statistics, courthouse or other government records usually is considered excellent proof. Other primary evidence might include Bible Records (which must be contemporary with the publication date of the Bible or events), diaries or letters.
3. Secondary evidence such as census records and newspaper clippings (applicant must give the name of the newspaper, location, page and date of publication) might be used as corroborative evidence. County histories and family records **CONTEMPORARY TO THE FACTS REPORTED** is considered as supporting evidence only.
4. Circumstantial evidence **WILL NOT** be accepted as proof unless supported by primary or secondary evidence.
5. Oral, written, or published family traditions may be in error and **CANNOT** be accepted as documentation.
6. Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical records or compilations, family group sheets, and charts, family reunion records and similar materials are not considered proof. Unsupported information from an amateur or a professional genealogist is not acceptable, including such records printed in any genealogical, historical, or similar publication.
7. Lineage papers, accepted or unaccepted, from other patriotic or hereditary societies (including First Families of Ohio, Society or Civil War Families of Ohio, DAR or SAR, etc.) **by themselves** are not considered proof. The documents used to prove the lineage **MIGHT** be considered proof for FFORC if they follow these rules.
8. Material authored by the applicant or a member of his or her immediate family cannot be considered proof.
9. Documents use as proof must, either alone or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, actually **state the fact to be proved**.

Examples of implied proof that are not acceptable are:

- A. Unnamed individuals specified in court records as “heirs” or “heirs-in-laws” unless it is known that applicable laws at the time included only bloodline descendants.
 - B. Census records which show the name of the head of the household only along with numbers of family members or other by age group prove only the family head actually named. The 1850 through 1870 census cannot be used as proof of relationship. Next door neighbors on a census or tax record do not prove any relationship **by themselves**.
 - C. 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!
 - D. Blood descent is not necessary proven by owning the same land as an earlier owner by the same name, whether the land was inherited or purchased.
10. Documents written or printed in a foreign language must be accompanied by a translation into English and the translation certified as a “true translation” by the translator (not the applicant or a family member)
 11. Old letters or family records can be accepted as proof for only the facts that the writer could logically know as **contemporary knowledge**. Identification of the writer and the date is necessary. To be acceptable, county histories or other published biographies also should have been written by someone with contemporary knowledge **not hearsay**.

- 12.** Land or tax records are acceptable only if they specify that the individual was a resident of Richland County, Ohio since many early landowners and speculators never lived in Ohio.
- 13.** Females must be submitted using their maiden names, with all name changes being documented. Exceptions are made only in the case of African Americans and Native Americans, and only when such ethnicity is proved.
- 14.** Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
- 15.** A direct line from the applicant to pioneer ancestor must be proven at each step, including the spouse in each generation. Collateral descent is not acceptable. Adopted children do not qualify as a step in lineage. Bloodline descent only is acceptable.
- 16.** All documents must include a full citation which includes the title, volume, and page number must be written on the copy itself. If using a published book you must include the title page. Bible records must include a photocopy of the title page with publication date and the current owner's name and address.
- 17.** Photocopies or original documents are acceptable as copied if there are no changes on the original. If it is not possible to make a photocopy of a document, a typed or handwritten copy of the document must be certified as a **"TRUE COPY"** by a courthouse or other official, librarian, etc. An applicant or member of his or her family cannot certify a document as a **"TRUE COPY"**.
- 18.** Photographs of tombstones are acceptable for proof of birth and death dates and for relationships **actually stated on the stone**. Published compilations of tombstone readings are acceptable, if no additional information has been included that is not actually on the stones.
- 19.** If an ancestor has been proved previously by another individual, the applicant may submit proof only to the nearest common ancestor, if so desired. A citation to the name and number of the FFORC member must be included.
- 20.** Deadline for applications is May 31 of each year.
- 21.** Reminder: a statement is not necessarily true just because it's in print.

Instructions To Applicant: Fill in blocks A, B, and C on this page. List your main ancestral line on pages 2 and 3, beginning with yourself as #1. On page 5 list your proof used to (1) prove your ancestor(s) residence before Jan 1, 1840 and (2) prove your direct descent to your ancestor(s). Type or hand-print all information. **A check for \$15.00 and an ancestor chart must accompany the application.** Mail to FFORC, 611 St. Rt. 97 W Bellville, OH 44813.



Richland Co Chapter
Use Only
Application Received _____
Acceptance Date _____
Application Fee _____
FFORC Certificate No. _____

First Families of Richland County, Ohio

A. Applicants Name	Street Address		
Full Name of Husband/Wife	Town	State	Zip Code
E-Mail			

Ancestors of the Applicant Who Were Settled In Richland County, Ohio Before Jan. 01, 1840.

B. Name of Ancestor	Year First Proven in Richland County, OH	Township in Which First Proven	Ancestor Was From County or State

SBORC Chairman _____ Date _____

Richland Co. President _____ Date _____

The applicant is #1 on this form. The applicant's father and mother are #2. The same applies throughout the remaining portion of this form. To prove both sides of the family, additional forms must be added. Each claim submitted on this application must have documentation. Each document you submit should be identified with a corresponding number from the documentation list on page 2-3 of the application. **Always put the man's name first and the wife's name second regardless of the family line you are submitting!**

1. I _____ was born on _____ # _____

At city/county/state _____ # _____

Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____ # _____

Location of marriage: _____ # _____

Spouse born: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

2. _____ child of _____ # _____

Born: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____ # _____

Location of marriage: _____ # _____

Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

3. _____ child of _____ # _____

Born: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____ # _____

Location of marriage: _____ # _____

Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

4. _____ child of _____ # _____

Born: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____ # _____

Location of marriage: _____ # _____

Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

5. _____ child of _____ # _____
Born: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____ # _____
Location of marriage: _____ # _____
Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

6. _____ child of _____ # _____
Born: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____ # _____
Location of marriage: _____ # _____
Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

7. _____ child of _____ # _____
Born: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____ # _____
Location of marriage: _____ # _____
Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

8. _____ child of _____ # _____
Born: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____ # _____
Location of marriage: _____ # _____
Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____ # _____
Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____ # _____

Please use this for additional lines submitted.

_____ child of _____	# _____
Born: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Died: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____	# _____
Location of marriage: _____	# _____
Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
_____ child of _____	# _____
Born: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Died: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____	# _____
Location of marriage: _____	# _____
Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
_____ child of _____	# _____
Born: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Died: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____	# _____
Location of marriage: _____	# _____
Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
_____ child of _____	# _____
Born: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Died: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Spouse: _____ Date of marriage _____	# _____
Location of marriage: _____	# _____
Spouse born _____ city/county/state _____	# _____
Spouse died: _____ city/county/state _____	# _____

