



OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

LINEAGE SOCIETY RULES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The following rules and procedures apply to all applications for:

- Society of the Families of the Old Northwest Territory (SFONT)
- First Families of Ohio (FFO)
- Settlers and Builders of Ohio (SBO)
- Century Families of Ohio (CFO)
- Military Order of the Daughters and Sons of Ohio (MODSO)

Please read all guidelines before beginning the application process.

Each society is a separate entity. Applicants must submit a signed application using the appropriate form, the application fee, and full documentation for each society they wish to join. **Documentation is not shared between the different lineage societies.** All applications and their accompanying documents become the property of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The March 2025 update for **OGS Lineage Society Rules and Application Procedures** takes effect April 1, 2025 and takes precedence over previously published guidelines.
- The Society of Civil War Families of Ohio (SCWFO) has been retired. Applicants interested in honoring their Civil War ancestors may submit their application for the Military Order of the Daughters and Sons of Ohio (MODSO).
- Applicants must be current members of the **Ohio Genealogical Society**, except for **some** applicants to the Society of Families of the Old Northwest Territory (SFONT).
- Deadline for applications is **November 30th** of each year. Applications must be delivered to OGS or postmarked by that date.
- Applicants who are not accepted during the year in which they apply will have their applications filed at the Ohio Genealogical Society headquarters for a two-year period allowing for additional time to submit appropriate documentation for acceptance. *After this two-year period, the applicant must file a new application and pay the appropriate fee.*
- Applications may be signed by the applicant or by a person who compiled the application for the applicant. Unsigned applications will not be reviewed.
- The final application approval decision rests with each society's committee chair(s). Please remember that all OGS lineage society chairs and committee members volunteer their time to OGS.
- **Application Fee:** The non-refundable application fee must accompany the

application. Upon application approval, the applicant will be presented with a lineage society certificate and pin at the OGS Annual Conference in April. Only one lineage society pin will be issued to each approved member per lineage society.

Replacement pins and certificates may be purchased for a \$15 fee each. **There is a \$60.00 application fee for non-OGS members applying to the Society of Families of the Old Northwest Territory.**

- **Supplemental Application Fee:** There will be an additional application fee for submitting new ancestors to that same lineage society in future years after being approved for a particular lineage society. OGS refers to this process as submitting a supplemental application.
 - If submitting a supplemental application, include a reference to your previous application and the line you are following.
 - Do not submit documentation previously submitted.
 - Supplemental applications are not for your children, grandchildren, siblings or other relatives. They must submit their own applications.
 - Please use the regular application form to submit additional ancestors and clearly mark your FFO, SBO, CFO, or SFONT member number on that application.
 - You will receive a certificate listing approved supplemental ancestors only shortly after the OGS Annual Conference. You are encouraged to attend the conference lineage banquet to receive your new certificate.

Ancestors	New Application	Supplemental Application
• Up to 8 ancestors	\$40	\$15
• 9 to 15 ancestors	\$50	\$25
• 16 or more	\$60	\$35

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must prove appropriate dates of residency in addition to proving lineage.
2. Only blood lines are eligible. Adoptive lines are not eligible.
3. Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
4. Eligibility

A new applicant who has never applied to any OGS Lineage Society:

- **Applying to one society:** any eligible ancestors will be admitted to the society, with proper documentation, to which the applicant has applied even if documentation has been included that proves the ancestors are eligible for another lineage society within OGS that has an earlier date of residence.
- **Applying to more than one society at the same time:** any approved ancestors will be placed into the society to which the ancestor is eligible based

on the data in the applications but only into societies to which the applicant has actually applied.

An applicant who already has approved ancestors in one lineage society and is now applying for a second lineage society:

- Any ancestor who has already been accepted into a lineage society that has an earlier date of residence than the one to which the applicant is now applying shall not be eligible for acceptance into the society with the later (more recent) date of residence.
- Any ancestor the applicant has previously submitted for a society shall not be accepted in a society with a later date of residence even if that ancestor was not accepted in the society with the earlier date. However, the applicant may at any time in the future submit additional documentation in support of acceptance of that ancestor into the society with the earlier date of residence.
- Any ancestor who has not already been accepted in, or who was previously submitted for acceptance but lacked sufficient documentation for acceptance, in an OGS Lineage Society with an earlier date of residence and is eligible for acceptance into the society for which application has been made, will be accepted in the society for which application has been made, even if supplied documentation proves that ancestor eligible for a society with an earlier date of residence.
- Any ancestor who is already accepted in a society with a later date of residence can be submitted for acceptance in a society with an earlier date of residence with submission of the appropriate application with sufficient documentation and the necessary fee. If the ancestor is found to be eligible under the rules of the earlier society the ancestor will then be accepted for the earlier society without affecting membership in the later society.

SOCIETY ELIGIBILITY

- **Society of the Families of the Old Northwest Territory (SFONT):** Open to direct descendants of any person who lived in the Old Northwest Territory prior to 1 Jan 1803.
- **First Families of Ohio (FFO):** Open to direct descendants of an individual who settled in the area now encompassed by the State of Ohio between 1803 and 1820.
- **Settlers and Builders of Ohio (SBO):** Open to direct descendants of an individual who settled in the area now encompassed by the State of Ohio between 1 January 1821 and 31 December 1860.
- **Century Families of Ohio (CFO):** Open to direct descendants of any person residing in Ohio from 1861 to 100 years prior to the current year.
- **Military Order of the Daughters and Sons of Ohio (MODSO):** Open to any resident of the State of Ohio or direct descendants of any resident of the State of Ohio who served in the armed forces.

RULES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE SOCIETY OF FAMILIES OF THE OLD NORTHWEST TERRITORY



The Old Northwest Territory shall be defined as the area currently known as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and the portion of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River and north to the Canadian border.

Current OGS members who have been awarded the First Families of Ohio (FFO) with the 1803 pin do not automatically become members of this Society. OGS members can elect to be a member of either FFO or this Society, or be a member of both societies.

Applicants must prove:

A. Your ancestor must have lived in what is now Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin or eastern Minnesota (east of the Mississippi River) between 13 July 1787 and 7 May 1800 (Indiana Territory created).

- or -

B. Your ancestor must have lived in what is now Ohio or Michigan between 13 July 1787 and December 1802 (prior to 1803 - Ohio Statehood).

- or -

C. Your ancestor must have lived in what is now Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin or eastern Minnesota prior to 13 Jul 1787 as a citizen of either France or Great Britain, or as a Native American.

CANDIDATES ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR SFONT ADMISSION

- A native American who is a legal member of an existing Indian tribe which once lived within the boundaries of the Old Northwest Territory prior to 3 March 1803.
- A citizen of France who lived within the boundaries of the Old Northwest Territory prior to 10 February 1763 (Treaty of Paris).
- A citizen of Great Britain who lived within the boundaries of the Old Northwest Territory prior to 29 February 1796 (Jay Treaty)
- A citizen of the State of Virginia who lived in the County of Illinois between October 1778 and 1 March 1784.

- A soldier from the armies of either France or Great Britain who was stationed within the boundaries of the Old Northwest Territory prior to 10 February 1763 for a French veteran and prior to 1 March 1796 for a British veteran.
- A soldier from the United States Army who was stationed within the boundaries of the Old Northwest Territory prior to 3 March 1803.
- An American who illegally settled within the Old Northwest Territory and who later took up legal residence. These settlers are commonly called “squatters.”
- A descendant of one of the following men who were civil officers in the Old Northwest Territory:
 - Arthur St. Clair – Territorial Governor
 - John Cleves Symmes – Supreme Court member
 - James Mitchell Varnum – Supreme Court member
 - Samuel Holden Parsons – Supreme Court member
 - Winthrop Sargent – Secretary
 - William Henry Harrison - Secretary and later a non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress
 - Charles Willing Byrd - Secretary
 - William McMillan - non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress
 - Paul Fearing – non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress

SFONT ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- For SFONT military service evidence, do not submit the entire file. Include only those documents necessary to prove service.
- Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR): List soldier’s name, unit, state and repository where the record is stored (NARA, state archives, etc.). If the record is on microfilm, cite publication and roll numbers.
- Pension File: List soldier’s name (or widow’s or other dependent’s name if filed by other than the soldier) and certificate number.
- A military land warrant and a land patent cannot be used to prove residency. Only a land deed which shows the residence of an ancestor or a tax list of resident land owners can be used to prove residency.

APPLICATION AND EVIDENCE DOCUMENT PREPARATION PROCEDURES

1. Applicants should download a PDF file of the appropriate society's application from the OGS web site. The application form includes an Ancestral Chart, a Documentation List, and a checklist for your help. This PDF file must be first downloaded and saved to your computer before it can be filled in and saved with your information. This PDF file can then be printed and mailed with its accompanying documentation. Please use dark blue or black ink when filling out an application by hand.
2. Submit the completed application(s) with copies of evidence documents. Do not send original documents as they will not be returned.
3. Do not send more documentation than needed. Extra documentation will be discarded.
4. All photocopies submitted must be legible or must be accompanied by a transcription. All transcriptions must be accompanied by the original document.
5. When a photocopy is not possible, applicants may substitute a typed, hand-printed, or written transcription of documents with the relevant citation.
6. Only one photocopy of any document is necessary even though that document may be used as evidence for more than one event, more than one generation, or more than one applicant. If you are submitting applications for multiple family members, OGS only needs one photocopy of documentation for common ancestors. Multiple photocopies of the same document will be discarded due to storage limitations.
7. Submit at least a 5-generation chart showing all lines submitted in the application.
8. Organize evidence documents by generation, according to your ascent chart, before beginning to number them. For example, your birth certificate should be Document #1; your marriage certificate is Document #2.
9. Number each piece of evidence in the upper right-hand corner according to its corresponding number on the Document List page provided. The applicant may substitute a numbered list of evidence documents produced on a computer or typewriter instead of using the Document List page. All submitted documents must be identified in this list.
10. Fill out the document number blanks on the Ascent Chart using the evidence documents that will accompany the application. It is possible that not all of your documents and their corresponding number will appear on the Ascent Chart.
11. In each generation, the vital information for the male always should be written first and the information for the female second, no matter which ancestral line(s) you are following in the application.
12. Documentation must be provided for each date, place or name written on the application. If you do not have an acceptable evidence document, leave that space blank.
13. Dates should be written in day, month and year format, i.e. 12 May 2006. Dates may be estimated using censuses or tombstones. If estimating a date (circa), write it like this: c 1810. Dates calculated (e.g. from age at death on tombstones) must have cal written after the date (e.g. 1810 cal)

14. All females must be identified by their maiden names in order to be approved. Exceptions are made only in the case of African Americans and Native Americans, and only when such ethnicity and lack of surname is proved.
15. List and submit documentation for multiple spouses for females, even if they are not in the ancestral line(s) you are following in the application. This substantiates name changes.
16. Because all applications will be stored in legal size archival file folders and may be digitized for use by future researchers, please follow these directions for preparing evidence documents:
 - Try to make all documents letter size (8.5 by 11). If an item is small, please re-copy it onto letter size paper so it does not become lost. Documents larger than 8.5 by 14 will be folded to fit the archival file folder.
 - Do not use staples, tape of any kind, gummed labels, sheet protectors, or binders. Paper or binder clips are acceptable as are sticky notes but will be removed before the application is filed.
 - To indicate specific evidence in difficult-to-read document photocopies, you may underline the pertinent information and/or draw an arrow in the margin to the location of information you are trying to prove, preferably with red ink.
 - All documents submitted must have the applicant's name and address on the document on either the front or back. If on the front of the document it must not obscure the information being submitted. Do not use address labels. An inked address stamp is acceptable.
17. Married applicants **must** include records for their marriage and for their spouse's birth (and death, if applicable).
18. *Each legal name change for anyone listed on the application must be documented.*
19. Information for additional ancestral lines may be included on additional applications or on the extra un-numbered generation application sections provided at the end of each application. Application pages may be photocopied to provide space for additional ancestors.
20. If an ancestor has been previously proven by another individual, the applicant may submit evidence only to the nearest common ancestor. Include the name and member number of the appropriate lineage society member. If you need documentation from or a copy of that member's application, please follow the OGS Library Copy Service guidelines.
21. Applicants should keep a copy of their application and all accompanying documents.

APPLICATION AND CITATION HELP

EVIDENCE CITATION

All documents must include a full source citation to the original source. This requirement is true for internet and traditional source documents. Other researchers should be able to use the citations to find the document themselves. Citations may be

written in any accessible location on the front of the photocopy or you may include a photocopy of the title page showing all bibliographic information. Some citation requirements:

- Court Documents: Give state, county, volume and page number.
- Books and other published works: Give all bibliographical information (author/editor, title, publisher, city of publication, page number, and copyright date).
- Military Records: Give all identifying information such as packet number, publication series and, if on microfilm, roll number. Cite repository. Include any additional pertinent citation information.
- Family Bible Pages: Must be accompanied by a photocopy (or True Copy transcription; see #3 above) of the Bible's title page and of any section showing the publication date of the Bible. Bibles must be contemporary with the information they prove. Please list the Bible's provenance and the current owner.
- Family Records: Old family papers may be accepted if the provenance of the family papers is stated and the application contains other documents that support the information these papers prove.
- Census Photocopies: Must show, or have written on the front of the copy, all necessary finding information, i.e. town, county, state, year and date of census. Please do not send census summaries typically found on such sites as Ancestry. Reviewers need to see the original census page. In some cases, photocopies from census books, done by reputable organizations such as local genealogical societies, may be substituted.
- Photographs must be identified, preferably on the back side.
- Tombstone Photographs: Must be identified by cemetery name and location. If the tombstone is not legible, a written transcription must be included.
- Newspaper Articles and Obituaries: Should show the name and city of the newspaper and the date and page of publication. If the newspaper item has been clipped out and no identifying information exists, please state the provenance of the clipping, e.g. "my grandmother saved these in an old shoebox and gave them to me in 1957."
- If the document is copied from microfilm, add the microfilm number and the repository where you used the microfilm.
- Internet Documents: If the document was obtained from an internet web site, you must cite the original source and must list the web site name, URL and date of access. Please do not copy and paste a long web address leading to a specific document. Citing the web site name, URL and date of access is sufficient for future researchers to find the same document later.
- Electronic Format Publications: Cite as if it were the printed copy of the publication but include the web page URL and date accessed or the title and other bibliographic information for the CD (or other media storage) publication.

EXAMPLES OF SOURCE CITATIONS

Probate Court Birth Record: Birth of John Smith on dd/mm/yyyy in (town/township, county, state) showing parents as Jim Smith and Betty Jones. (You need to submit both pages of a Probate Birth Record) Probate Records require a notation of the volume/book, the page number and the repository (courthouse, library, etc) or website where the record was found.

Regular Birth Certificate: Birth Certificate of Mary Jones born dd/mm/yyyy in (town, county, state) to parents Tom Jones and Mary Smith

Probate Court Death Record: Death of Charles Doe on dd/mm/yyyy at age 77 years, 5 months, 2 days in (town, township, county, state).) Probate Records require a notation of the volume/book, the page number, and the repository (courthouse, library, etc.) or website where the record was found.

Regular Death Certificate: Death Certificate of Charles Doe who died on dd/mm/yyyy at (town, county, state) showing parents as (father/mother) and a birth date of dd/mm/yyyy.

Marriage Returns: Marriage of (groom/bride) on dd/mm/yyyy at (location) from (county) found in volume 2, page 376. (If the marriage return includes the names of the parents, that information can be included as well) All marriage records (including your own marriage certificates) should reference the volume, page, and repository of where the original record can be found.

Court Records require a notation of the volume/book, case number, the page number and the repository (courthouse, library, etc.) or website where the record was found.

Source citations should include the Who, What, Where, and When of the document being presented. Source citations let future researchers know where to find the original documents. Source citations assist the judges in reviewing your application.

RULES OF EVIDENCE

The rules of evidence applying to membership in First Families of Ohio (FFO), Settlers and Builders of Ohio (SBO), Century Families of Ohio (CFO), the Society of Families of the Old Northwest Territory (SFONT), and the Military Order of Daughters and Sons of Ohio (MODSO) follow and are the standards by which all evidence is judged. There are no exceptions.

The nature and extent of the evidence submitted with all applications shall be sufficient to prove that the applicant is directly descended from the ancestor(s) named in the application and shall be sufficient to differentiate between any two persons of the same name who might be residing in the same area at the same time or serving during the

Civil War.

Documents used as evidence, either alone or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, must state the fact to be proved. Inferred evidence is not acceptable. All documents submitted must have a Document Number, preferably located in the upper right corner, and your name and contact information. This number must correspond to the fact(s) it proves on the application page(s) and to the description on the Document List.

EVIDENCE TYPES

1. Vital statistics, courthouse or other government records, and church records usually are considered excellent evidence documents. Other evidence such as Bible records, diaries or letters, censuses, newspaper clippings, county histories and family records contemporary to the facts reported are considered as corroborating evidence.
2. **Always submit evidence in original format (copies) when possible. Abstracts and indexes are generally not acceptable proof.**
3. For SCWFO, proof of military service can be found in enlistment, discharge, pension, Compiled Military Service Records, or other Federal, Confederate or state government documents.
4. Oral, written, or published family traditions may be in error and cannot be accepted as evidence.
5. Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical records or compilations, family group sheets and charts, family reunion records and similar material are not considered evidence unless the document is contemporary with the information being proved and is supported by other evidence.
6. Old letters or family records can be accepted as evidence for only the facts that the writer could logically know as contemporary knowledge. Identification of the writer and the document date is necessary as is a statement of the document's provenance. Provenance is defined as the history of the ownership of a particular item.
7. Unsupported information from an amateur or professional genealogist is not acceptable, including such records printed in genealogical, historical, or similar publications. Scholarly journal articles that are supported by citations to acceptable documentation may be acceptable.
8. Published or manuscript material authored by the applicant or his family will not by itself be accepted as evidence but may be included with other qualifying evidence.
9. A marriage license is not acceptable evidence for a marriage; it only proves intent. If no marriage return or record exists, write the word Lic after the license date on the application.
10. Pre-1880 censuses cannot be used as sole evidence of relationship since no relationships are stated in these records.
11. Pre-1850 censuses cannot be used as sole evidence of residence for anyone other than the head of household.

12. Land or real estate tax records are acceptable only if they specify that the individual was a resident of Ohio.
13. Photographs of tombstones are acceptable for evidence of birth and death dates and for relationships actually stated on the stone. Include the name and location of the cemetery in which the tombstone is found. Most published compilations of tombstone readings are acceptable. Tombstone photographs must be transcribed when they are difficult to read. Tombstones must be contemporary in style with the ancestor's death date. Information from the website findagrave.com cannot be used to prove lineage.
14. 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 (a third party; not the applicant or his/her family member).
15. Lineage applications, accepted or unaccepted, from other patriotic or hereditary societies are not considered evidence.
16. E-mail is not considered evidence.
17. Information taken from Internet resources or electronic publications must be acceptable in its original form. The original source must be cited as well as the web page URL and date accessed. If taken from an electronic publication on CD or other media, bibliographic information for the electronic publication must accompany the original source citation.
18. DNA evidence and supporting documentation will be handled on an individual basis.
19. Images of actual documents and records that are available on-line are acceptable but must include the original document citation if that information is not visible on the copy submitted.
20. Transcriptions and abstractions from genealogical web sites and from many genealogical organization sites are considered acceptable evidence but must have the original source fully cited as well as the basic URL citation. Web site information will be judged on an individual basis by the individual lineage society chair(s) as to the credibility of the data presented.

EXAMPLES OF IMPLIED EVIDENCE WHICH ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

- Unnamed individuals specified in court records as *heirs* or *heirs-at-law* are not proved by such records unless it is known that applicable laws at the time included only bloodline descendants.
- A father is not proved as being in an area just because his child was born there. The birth only proves the mother and child were in that location on that date.
- Blood descent is not necessarily proved by owning the same land as an earlier owner of the same name.
- Census proximity does not prove relationship.
- Military Land Warrants and Land Patents do not prove residency.
- Biographies found on Find-A-Grave (unless the information has a source citation included). Only the picture of the tombstone is generally acceptable to show dates of birth and death and other information that is shown on the tombstone.
- Any online information including Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Find-A-Grave, blogs, or any other web site unless there are clear and sufficient source citations.