

First Families of Highland County

First Family Committee - SOGS
P.O. Box 414
Hillsboro, Oh 45133

First Families of Highland County is a nonprofit adjunct organization under the jurisdiction of the Southern Ohio Genealogical Society, was founded in 1992 to recognize, honor and perpetuate the memory of early pioneers who were residents of Highland County, Ohio before January 1, 1831.

When you have proved each generation of your direct lineage back to an individual who settled in one of the townships of Highland County, you are eligible for lifetime membership in First Families of Highland County. When approved, you may attend an installation banquet the second Thursday of June to be inducted and receive your **FFOHC Certificate and Membership Pin**.

Once you have been inducted into FFOHC you may submit applications for other pioneer ancestors that qualify without having to pay the \$20.00 application fee. If another family member, such as a brother, sister, son or daughter, wishes to register through a proven ancestor, they should request the form, **Brother, Sister, Son or Daughter Application Form for FFOHC**, complete it and submit with a non-refundable \$20.00 application fee.

DOCUMENTATION RULES OF EVIDENCE FOR FFOHC

The right hand column must give name of the document you are using to prove the statement on the left. Label each document with the Generation Number and Alphabetical Letter on the bottom right corner.

Accepted Primary Evidence Documents - SOGS, FFOHC Committee will primarily accept evidence from the following list of documents: (A, B, C). Label the source of all documents submitted.

A. Court House Records and Published Abstracts

1. vital statistics
2. wills and administrations
3. marriage records
4. death certificates
5. birth records
6. land transitions, if they specify the individual was a resident of Ohio, since many early landowners and speculators never lived in Ohio
7. land and personal property tax records, if they specify the individual was a resident of Ohio, since many early landowners and speculators never lived in Ohio
8. voting records
9. abstracts and indexes from actual court records
10. other county, state and federal records
11. Ross County records, before 1805, will be accepted as proof of residence in Highland Co..

B. Miscellaneous Records and their Published Abstracts

1. church
2. census
3. cemetery

C. Secondary Sources are acceptable if they are contemporary to the period.

1. newspaper clippings should identify the name of the newspaper and the date of publication
2. school records
3. personal letters and diaries
4. Bible records, include a copy of the title page with the date of publication. Include the name and address of the current owner or source of the record.

Documentation Rules of Evidence for FFOHC (cont.)

- D. The FFOHC Committee will not accept any of the following as evidence for documentation.
The following sources may be used by the researcher as a guide to help locate the above (A,B,C).
1. Oral, written, published histories or genealogies
 2. Family tradition or circumstantial evidence
 3. Lineage papers from other organizations or societies
- E. Documents used as proof must, either alone or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, actually state the fact to be proved.
- F. A direct line from applicant to pioneer must be proved at every generation. Collateral descent is not applicable. Adopted children do not qualify as a step in a lineage. Blood line descent only is acceptable.
- G. Female ancestors must be proved by their maiden name. The birth of a child in the county would prove its mother's presence. It would not prove the residence of the father.
- H. Owning the same land, as an earlier owner with the same surname does not necessarily prove lineage.
- I. 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 written in that is not on the tombstones themselves.
- J. Documentation must be presented to differentiate between individuals with the same first and last name.
- K. As a genealogical organization, we encourage credible genealogical research and require legible copies of original documents as proof of lineage. If you are not familiar with standard genealogical practices concerning documents, you may want to research this at your local historical society, genealogical society or public library.
- L. Photocopies should be made of all pertinent pages of published books. Include a copy of the title page and note the title, volume and page number on the back of each page.
- M. To tie a female applicant to her family, a marriage certificate or license is required.
- N. A separate application and generational chart must be completed for each ancestral line submitted.
- O. Applications must be complete, well organized and easily read before the FFOHC Committee can accept them for review.
- P. Send copies of original documents. Documentation and applications become property of SOGS.
- Q. Be sure to include all documentation and helpful notes, a generational chart, include a check to cover the application fee and sign and date your application, before mailing it to SOGS.**
- R. The cutoff date for applications is April 30 for the FFOHC Banquet on the second Thursday of June.
- S. Verification of applications is by committee and their decision is final.
- T. You will receive notification of approval or disapproval of your application, once the FFOHC Committee has evaluated it. If the application needs more work it will be returned to the applicant and may be resubmitted once it is complete.