

1.	I,		was born on		
		at	City	County	State
2.	I am the child of				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	and , his wife				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	married on	at	City	County	State
3.	The said		was the daughter/son		
	of				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	and , his wife				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
4.	The said		was the daughter/son		
	of				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	and ,his wife				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	married on	at	City	County	State

5.	The said		was the daughter/son		
	of				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	and ,his wife				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	married on	at	City	County	State
6.	The said		was the daughter/son		
	of				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	and ,his wife				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	married on	at	City	County	State
7.	The said		was the daughter/son		
	of				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	and ,his wife				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	married on	at	City	County	State

8.	The said		was the daughter/son		
	of				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	and ,his wife				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	married on	at	City	County	State
9.	The said		was the daughter/son		
	of				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	and ,his wife				
	born on	at	City	County	State
	died on	at	City	County	State
	married on	at	City	County	State

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

NOTE: This application, information, and all supporting documentation and data become the property of the Wood County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society.

The First Families of Wood County Application must be accompanied by copies of **ALL** documents necessary to: (1) prove the pioneer ancestor(s) settlement in Wood County on or before December 31, 1855 and (2) prove each step of descent from the pioneer(s) to the applicant. Proof may **NOT** be omitted for any step. Copies of proof must be either: (1) copy-machine copies of the certified original or (2) exact typed, "true copies" notarized or otherwise certified by a court house official, genealogical librarian or other official. All proof documents must show their source and be contained in an 8½" x 11" file folder. Applicants should include a pedigree chart(s) that traces the applicant's lineage back to the pioneer ancestor and a family group sheet(s) for each generation.

Authorities as to Settlement in Wood County, Ohio prior to 31 December 1855
(List and include facsimile copies)

Authorities as to Descent
(List and include facsimile copies. **Each generation must be proved.**)

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	

FIRST FAMILIES OF WOOD COUNTY Rules of Evidence

A \$15 NON-REFUNDABLE FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION

1. The ancestor(s) proved in Wood County as of December 31, 1855 **must** be a **direct** line back from the paternal (father) or maternal (mother) ancestors of the applicant. Adoptive lines are not acceptable.
2. Primary evidence from vital statistics (birth, death, and marriage certificates), court house or other government records (military, land records, deeds, wills, land warrants, naturalization records, tax list, guardianship, ward and trustee, and civil docket), church records (birth and baptism, marriage, death, membership communicates), school records (enrollment and school census) is considered to be excellent proof.
3. Every effort must be made to prove birth, marriage, and death for each person in each generation. Relationship between each generation **must** be proven. For each birth, marriage, and death not proven, a written explanation must be submitted as to the reason for lack of proof. **NOTE:** New applicants using a previously accepted ancestor **must** include **all proofs** for their entire line.
4. Secondary evidence such as census records, newspaper clippings and obituaries (name of newspaper and date of publication), old letters (dates), Bible records (with title page and publication date) or other family records contemporary to the facts reported is considered almost as authentic.
5. Circumstantial evidence, implied by facts or hearsay is **not** considered as proof, unless backed up by primary or secondary evidence.
6. Oral, written or published family traditions are often inaccurate and not acceptable,
7. Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical records (Family Group Sheets, etc.) or genealogical compilations are **not** accepted as proof, unless they are well documented and proved in themselves or backed up by other acceptable proof. **County histories, such as Beers, and atlases are not considered as proof**, though they often provide valuable clues.
8. Lineage papers from other patriotic and hereditary societies by themselves are **not** acceptable as proof.
9. Materials authored by the applicant or their family, **cannot** be considered as proof.
10. Documents used as proof must, either by themselves, or in conjunction with other acceptable documents. **Actually state the fact to be proved.** If the document merely implies the fact, this is **not** considered as proof. An example of the expression "heirs-at-law" or "heirs" as found in some estate records. The expression could mean other relatives. Other examples of implied evidence which is **not** acceptable as proof are:
 - A. Census records which show only the name of the Head of Household with numbers to represent the other residents by age grouping (pre-1850) and do not state specific relationships of household members (pre-1880).
 - B. A father is **not** proved as being in the area just because a child was born there. A birth proves only that the **mother** was certainly there on the date of birth.
 - C. Blood descent is **not** necessarily proved by owning the same land as an earlier owner with the same surname, whether the land was received by inheritance or by purchase,
11. Land transactions (deed, warrants, grants, etc.) can be accepted as evidence of settlement in Wood County as of December 31, 1855, if the record **actually states** that the individual was of "Wood County", and was dated prior to 1856.
12. A tax list of 1856 is usually a record of taxes levied in 1855, and therefore could prove residence prior to 1856, if the individual is shown as a resident, and **not** an "absentee owner".
13. Proving female ancestors as settled in Wood County as of December 31, 1855 can be difficult. They must be proved as individuals **by their maiden names**. Birth and death records for their children usually state the mother's maiden name. These, or similar records, in conjunction with a deed dated prior to 1856 showing her (1) married name and (2) place of residence as Wood County are one way of proving residence of a female ancestor as of December 31, 1855.
14. When a father or mother is above the age for having children, the parentage claim is suspect, and must be proven beyond a doubt.
15. Photographs of tombstones are acceptable for proof of birth and death dates. 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.
16. Married female applicants must include a copy of their marriage license, or record, to prove their maiden name.