

RULES OF EVIDENCE
FIRST FAMILIES / PIONEER FAMILIES OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY
MUSKINGUM COUNTY CHAPTER, OGS
ALL DATES ARE 1830 FOR FIRST FAMILIES AND 1850 FOR PIONEER FAMILIES

OBJECTIVE: To identify and honor the memory of the earliest pioneers of Muskingum County, Ohio, and to show the proved pioneer's lasting mark on the county they helped develop, by honoring their descendants. The research and work in this project is intended to foster and encourage increasing interest in the people who contributed in any way, great or small, to establishing the county known as Muskingum, its customs, culture, genealogy and history.

REQUIREMENTS: Only members of Muskingum County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society (MCCOGS) may apply for First Families of Muskingum County (FFMC) or Pioneer Families of Muskingum County (PFMC). Applicants must complete a First Families /Pioneer Families of Muskingum County application form, proving descent from the pioneer ancestor (s) settlement in Muskingum County by 1830 / 1850.

FFMC/ PFMC application forms must be legibly hand printed using black ink or preferably typed. The application must be accompanied by copies of ALL DOCUMENTS necessary to (1) Prove the pioneer (s) settlement in Muskingum County, Ohio by 1830 / 1850; and (2) PROVE EACH STEP OF DESCENT FROM THE PIONEER (S) TO THE APPLYING MCGS MEMBER. PROOF MAY NOT BE OMITTED FOR ANY GENERATION.

Documents must be either photo copied or EXACT typed "TRUE COPIES" by a court official, genealogical Librarian or other official. If a typed copy is submitted, a photo copy must accompany it, if possible. ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE NOTED WITH THE SOURCE OR LOCATION OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD. (Applicant extraction's will not be accepted.) IN THE CASE OF A COPY OF AN OBITUARY, NAME OF NEWSPAPER OR WEB SITE WITH DATE OF EITHER MUST BE NOTED. IF THE OBITUARY IS COPIED FROM THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER FILES (GENEALOGY ROOM)THUS LOCATION MUST BE NOTED. All documents must have the number of the generation in red in the upper right hand corner and the name and address of the applicant on the reverse. DO NOT use a highlighter, make a red arrow in the margin to highlight a fact.

Original application (acid free) is be accompanied by a \$15.00 application fee. This fee covers as many pioneer Ancestors who settled in Muskingum County by 1830 / 1850 as the applicant can prove, either at the time of initial application or by later submission. Application, check and documents must be mailed to FFMC/ PFMC c/o Muskingum County Chapter OGS, P.O. Box 2427, Zanesville, OH 43702-2427.

APPROVAL: Applications, documentation and check must be postmarked by July 30 of each year for that year's annual award banquet held in September. Applications received after that date will be held for the following year. The chairperson will approve the applications or will correspond with the applicant for further documentation. After Chair approval the application will be submitted to the chairperson of the chapter trustees and the chapter president for their signatures. Applicants will be notified before September 1 if accepted. When further proof is requested, the application shall remain with the chairperson until completion or request of return by applicant. Application fee is nonrefundable. **WHEN APPROVED, THE APPLICATION AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE MUSKINGUM COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.**

THESE DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY YOU SERVE AS A GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH TOOL AND CAN ON REQUEST BE SHARED WITH A PATRON WHO MAY COPY THE INFORMATION. THESE RECORDS WILL BE KEPT LOCKED IN A FILE CABINET AND CAN ONLY BE RETRIEVED AND REFILED BY THE MCCOGS VOLUNTEER ON DUTY. YOU AS AN APPLICANT MAY BLACK OUT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: Applicant must prove they are the living spouse, widow, or widower of a direct descendant of an individual who settled in Muskingum County, Ohio by 1830 by submitting a completed application and following all requirements as set forth above.

FFMC RULES OF EVIDENCE

PRIMARY EVIDENCE: Original documents which give definite proof at the time an event occurred, i.e. vital statistics, deeds, court records, church certificates, etc.

SECONDARY EVIDENCE: Testimony from others, census records, newspapers, Bible records, letter, tombstone pictures, etc. This type of information must be contemporary to the facts presented (documented and written at the time frame of the events cited) A combination of documents will strengthen the report.

DOCUMENTS must cite source properly and by themselves, or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, **STATE THE FACT TO BE PROVED**, if the documents merely implies the fact it is not proof.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE: Implied fact, hearsay, family tradition, etc. will not be considered as proof.

PRINTED SOURCES: Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical compilations and /or abstracts are not considered as proof unless with correct citations and /or contemporary to the fact. **County Histories will be evaluated for proper, valid, documentation and reliability before being considered as supporting material along with secondary evidence.** Materials authored by the applicant or his family are not proof. All printed sources must include title page. More than one source of secondary evidence must be submitted.

GENEALOGICAL CHARTS: Ancestor/Pedigree charts, Family group sheets, either the work of the applicant or another are never considered as proof. They can however, serve as a “road map” for the chairperson and can be submitted as a ‘tool’ to aid in working with the submitted documentation.

GENERAL GUIDELINES: Consistently use full or legal name. A nickname should be written in “quotes”. Dates should be written DAY, MONTH, YEAR. Places should be cited as town or township, county, state. A female who settled in Muskingum County by 1830/1850 must be proven by her **MAIDEN NAME ONLY.** A woman is always referred to by maiden name. An appeal may be heard in instances of Native American or freed slaves that can be proven without doubt to have never carried a maiden name. Dates, names and places must agree with submitted documentation.

BIBLE RECORDS must include title page and publication date. Data must be contemporary to the fact. **LETTERS** and family record must be contemporary to the fact. Identification of the writer and date are a must. **CONTEMPORARY TO THE FACT** means that all documentation must be during the time frame stated and that the writer did not obtain it from older generations, other sources or hearsay. (i. e Bible published in 1899 would not contain an 1844 birth unless the writer got the information from other sources, thus hearsay).

HEIRS AND HEIRS-AT-LAW utilized within a document in itself can not be construed as proof of descent. Courts of law in various states and during various time frames used the term in different manners. If the statement is used as proof, the applicant must include copies of the inheritance law of the state, showing that, at the year the proving document was dated, it was proof of descent “in the blood line” and also include proof that the testator had at least one child.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS MUST BE IDENTIFIED BY NAME AND DATE OF PAPER

CENSUS RECORDS MUST BE CONCISE. Name and relationship should be stated. Those prior to 1850 with only head of household and age groups are NOT proof. Neighbors of the same surname do NOT prove relationship. It is suggested that you include these early census (or state index showing name) as supporting material. Citation should include reel number, series number and page number. **NOTE: The 1850/1860/1870 Census does not prove family members living in household are children of head of household.**

LAND transactions, (deed, etc) can only be accepted as evidence of settlement in Muskingum County by 1830/1850 if record states that the individual was “of Muskingum County” Blood descent is NOT necessarily proved by owning the same land as an earlier person by the same name. TAX LIST of 1830/1850 or prior years are acceptable if the individual is shown as a resident.

PATRIOTIC OR HEREDITARY SOCIETY LINEAGE PAPERS are NOT considered proof unless all document copies used for proving the lineage are attached and utilized the rules of evidence set forth by First Families of Muskingum County.

The Nature and extent of evidence submitted as proof, must be sufficient to prove the applicant is directly descended from the pioneer ancestor (s), named in item B, page 1, of the First Families of Muskingum County application form. The pioneer must be in Muskingum County by 1830/1850 and in direct line on either paternal or maternal branch of the family. Collateral lines (i. e. brother or sister of a direct ancestor) are NOT permissible.

Evidence must be sufficient to distinguish and differentiate between any persons of the same name residing in the county at the same time. A father is NOT proved as being in the area because a child was born there. A birth proves only that the birth Mother was there on the birth date.

Revised AUGUST 2019