

Rules of Evidence for Darke County, Ohio Lineages

The rules of evidence applying to membership in PIONEER FAMILIES, FIRST FAMILIES, CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS AND CENTURY ANCESTORS OF DARKE COUNTY, OHIO follow and are the standards by which all lineage proof is judged. **There are no exceptions.**

The nature and extend of the evidence submitted as proof in all applications shall be sufficient to prove that the applicant is directly descended from the ancestor(s) named in application, and sufficient to differentiate between any two persons of the same name residing in the same area at the same time. Proof must be included to show residence in Darke County by 31 December 1830 for Pioneer Families, 31 December 1850 for First Families, 1861-1865 for Civil War Ancestors and 1851 to 100 years back from present day for Century Ancestors. Documentation **MUST** be provided for each date listed, even if only an approximation (i.e. born ca 1785-1790 as per 1820 census).

1. Primary or collateral evidence from vital statistics, courthouse or other government records, church records, etc, usually is considered excellent proof.
2. Secondary evidence, such as census records, newspaper clippings, old letters, Bible or other family records **CONTEMPORARY TO THE FACTS REPORTED** is considered almost as authentic.
3. Circumstantial evidence, implied facts of hearsay are **NOT** accepted as proof.
4. Oral, written or published family traditions may be wrong and are **NOT** accepted as proof.
5. Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical records or compilations, family group sheets and charts, family reunion records and similar material 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.
6. Lineage papers, accepted or unaccepted, from other patriotic or hereditary societies by themselves are not considered proof. The document copies which were used to prove the lineage **MIGHT** be considered proof for Darke County Lineages if they follow these rules.
7. Material authored by the applicant or a member of his or her family cannot be considered as proof.
8. Documents used as proof must, either alone or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, actually **STATE THE FACT TO BE PROVED**.

Examples of Implied Proof which are not acceptable are:

- A. Unnamed individuals specified in court record as “heirs’ or “heirs-at-law’ unless it is known that applicable laws at the time include only bloodline descendants.
- B. Census record which show the name of the head of the family only, also with numbers of family members or others by age group, prove only the family head actually named. Next door or close 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 necessarily proved by owning the same land as an earlier owner by the same name, whether the land was inherited or purchased.

9. 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).
10. 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. County histories or other published biographies also should have been written by someone with contemporary knowledge, not hearsay, to be acceptable.
11. Land or tax records are acceptable only if they specify that the individual was a resident of Darke County, Ohio, since many early landowners and speculators never lived in Darke County, Ohio.
12. Female ancestors living in Darke County, Ohio must be identified by their maiden names when marriage was in Darke County, Ohio. Exceptions are made only in the case of Blacks and American Indians, and only when such ethnicity is proved.
13. Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
14. A direct line from applicant to pioneer ancestor must be proved at each step, including the spouse in each generation. Collateral descent is not applicable. Adopted children do not qualify as a step in lineage. Blood line descent only is acceptable.
15. All proof documents must state their source. Proof is required for each date listed for both persons in each generation. Bible records must include a photocopy of the title page with publication date and current owner’s name and address.
16. Typed, handwritten or printed copies of original documents must be certified as a “TRUE COPY” by a courthouse or other official, or a librarian, etc. An applicant or member of his or her family cannot certify a document as a “TRUE COPY”. Photocopies of original documents are acceptable as copied if there are no changes on the original.
17. Married female applicants must include a copy of their marriage record to prove their change of name. Divorce record will be required, if applicable, to prove name change from previous marriage.
18. Photographs of tombstones are acceptable for proof of birth and death dates and for relationship 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 stones themselves.
19. If an ancestor has been previously proved by another individual, the applicant may submit proof only to nearest common ancestor, if so desired. A citation to the name of the lineage member should be included.
20. Reminder: A statement is not necessarily true just because it’s in print.

Darke County Genealogical Society, Inc.
Darke County, Ohio Lineages

Application Instructions

1. Darke County Genealogical Society membership dues must be paid for current year. Annual Dues are **\$15.00**.
2. Application fees must be paid. There is a one-time **\$15.00** application fee which includes one ancestor. **Each** additional ancestor you wish to submit is **\$2.00**.
3. Minor children (Parent or Grandparent must first be a member of the Darke County Genealogical Society and have had their lineage application approved). \$10.00 for first application and ancestor. \$2.00 for each additional ancestor.
4. A completed application must be submitted for each ancestral line.
5. When primary evidence is known to exist in Darke County, it will be required as proof.
6. Examples: Birth records from Darke County Health Department
Death records from Darke County Health Department
Marriage records from Darke County Probate Court
Divorce records from Common Pleas Court
7. It is suggested that upon receipt of approved application form, each applicant should make a copy of its blank pages and use them as a work sheet.
8. Applicant should retain a copy of the application and each piece of evidence in case of loss in mail or other circumstances.
9. All information must be typed or printed clearly and legibly in black ink.
10. Give all dates by day, month, and year (01 Jan 2000)
11. List document on sheet and write the reference letter on the document and on line in front of data that it proves.
12. Data explanation: Ancestor-list ancestors
Lineage-Pioneer, First Family, Civil War or Century (It is possible to have more than one lineage category listed on an application if more than one ancestor in a family line is being proven.)
Year-Give year when first in Darke County
Born on-date of birth
Died on-date of death
Married on-date of marriage
At-city, township, county and state
Son or Daughter-circle appropriate gender
Spouse-husband or wife
13. Females listed on application must show maiden name.
14. Please sign and date Consignment section of application.
15. Applications must be received by September 01 of current year to allow time for processing before induction.
16. After application is reviewed you will be notified whether further documentation is needed or application has been approved.
17. After approval, notification of induction, time and place, will be sent to you.

Research Permission Form

The Darke County Genealogical Society, Inc. has decided to allow the First Families/Pioneer/Civil War/Century Ancestors files to be opened if the applicant gives his/her permission.

This will allow us to show the files to others wishing to apply to membership for the same ancestors.

Please sign the option listed below that best state your wishes.

I do not give my permission to have my First Family/Pioneer/Civil War/Century file opened for research purposes.

Signature _____ Date _____

I do give my permission to have my First Family/Pioneer/Civil War/Century file opened for research purposes.

Signature _____ Date _____

Upon my death, I give my permission to have my First Family/Pioneer/Civil War/Century file opened for research purposes.

Signature _____ Date _____

\$2.00 for each additional ancestor thereafter

Make checks payable to: Darke County Genealogical Society

DCGS use only

Date application was received _____ Fee received with application Yes or No

Applicant dues paid for year _____ Verified by _____ Date _____

Application approved by committee members _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Applicant accepted for induction Yes or No By _____ Date _____

Applicant notified by _____ Date _____

Invitation sent to applicant _____ Date _____

Ancestry

Reference

_____ 1. I _____ was born on _____

_____ at _____

_____ Spouse _____

_____ Married on _____ at _____

_____ 2. I am the child of _____

_____ Born on _____ at _____

_____ Died on _____ at _____

_____ Spouse _____

_____ Born on _____ at _____

_____ Died on _____ at _____

_____ Married on _____ at _____

_____ 3. The said _____ was the Son or Daughter
of _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Spouse _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Married on _____ at _____

_____ 4. The said _____ was the Son or Daughter
of _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Spouse _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Married on _____ at _____

_____ 5. The said _____ was the Son or Daughter
of _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Spouse _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Married on _____ at _____

_____ 6. The said _____ was the Son or Daughter
of _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Spouse _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Married on _____ at _____

_____ 7. The said _____ was the Son or Daughter
of _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Spouse _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Married on _____ at _____

_____ 8. The said _____ was the Son or Daughter
of _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Spouse _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Married on _____ at _____

_____ 9. The said _____ was the Son or Daughter
of _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Spouse _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Married on _____ at _____

_____ 10. The said _____ was the Son or Daughter
of _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Spouse _____
Born on _____ at _____
Died on _____ at _____
Married on _____ at _____

Consignment

I, _____, the applicant, swear and certify that I have examined this completed application and its proofs (documentation) and the facts and statements herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

This application, information, and all supporting documents and data become the property of The Darke County Genealogical Society.

For research purposes, if you wish, submit a second set of proofs which will be added to the surname files in the Darke County Genealogical Library located at Garst Museum.

Documentation

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____
- H. _____
- I. _____
- J. _____
- K. _____
- L. _____
- M. _____
- N. _____
- O. _____
- P. _____
- Q. _____
- R. _____
- S. _____
- T. _____
- U. _____
- V. _____
- W. _____
- X. _____
- Y. _____
- Z. _____
- 2A. _____
- 2B. _____
- 2C. _____
- 2D. _____
- 2E. _____
- 2F. _____
- 2G. _____
- 2H. _____
- 2I. _____
- 2J. _____
- 2K. _____
- 2L. _____
- 2M. _____
- 2N. _____
- 2O. _____
- 2P. _____
- 2Q. _____
- 2R. _____