Century Families of Ashland County

Rules of Evidence

The rules of evidence applying to membership in Century Families of Ashland County, Ohio follow and use the standards by which all CFOAC proof is judged. ***There are no exceptions.***

The nature and extent of the evidence submitted as proof in all applications shall be sufficient to prove that the applicant is directly descended from the pioneer(s) named in box B of the FFOAC application blank, and sufficient to differentiate between two persons of the same name residing in the same area at the same time. Proof must be included to show residence in Ashland County, Ohio between 01 Jan 181 and 31 Dec 100 years prior to the application year (Example if application year is 2013 then your ancestor must be in Ashland Co no later than 31 Dec 1913). ***Documentation MUST be provided for each date listed,*** even if only an approximation (e.g. born c. 1810 per 1850 census).

Basic Rules

1. Primary or collateral evidence from vital statistics, courthouse or other government records usually is considered excellent proof. Other primary evidence might include Bible Records (which must be contemporary with the publication date of the Bible or events), diaries or letters.
2. Secondary evidence such as census records and newspaper clippings (applicant must give the name of the newspaper, location, page and date of publication) might be used as corroborative evidence. County histories and family records **CONTEMPORARY TO THE FACTS REPORTED** is considered as supporting evidence only.
3. Circumstantial evidence **WILL NOT** be considered as acceptable proof unless supported by primary or secondary evidence.
4. Oral, written, or published family traditions may be in error and **CANNOT** be accepted as documentation.
5. Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical records or compilations, family group sheets, and charts, family reunion records and similar materials 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 (including First Families of Ohio, Society or Civil War Families of Ohio, DAR or SAR, etc.) ***by themselves*** are not considered proof. The documents used to prove the lineage **MIGHT** be considered proof for CFORC if they follow these rules.
7. Material authored by the applicant or a member of his or her immediate family cannot be considered proof.
8. Documents use as proof must, either alone or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, actually ***state the fact to be proved.***

Examples of implied proof that are not acceptable are:

   A. Unnamed individuals specified in court records as “heirs” or “heirs-in-laws” unless it is known that applicable laws at the time included only bloodline descendants.
   B. Census records which show the name of the head of the household only along with numbers of family members or other by age group prove only the family head actually named. The 1850 through 1870 census cannot be used as proof of relationship. Next door 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 necessary 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. To be acceptable, county histories or other published biographies also should have been written by someone with contemporary knowledge **not hearsay.**
11. Land or tax records are acceptable only if they specify that the individual was a resident of Richland County, Ohio since many early landowners and speculators never lived in Ohio.
12. Female ancestors **must be identified by their maiden names**. Exceptions are made only in the case of African Americans and Native Americans, and only when such ethnicity is proved.
13. Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
14. A direct line from the applicant to pioneer ancestor must be proved at each step, including the spouse in each generation. Collateral descent is not acceptable. Adopted children do not qualify as a step in lineage. Bloodline descent only is acceptable.

15. Proof is required for each date listed for both persons in each generation. All documents must include a full citation. The title, volume, and page number must be written on the copy itself. Bible records must include a photocopy of the title page with publication date and the current owner's name and address.
16. Photocopies or original documents are acceptable as copied if there are no changes on the original. If it is not possible to make a photocopy of a document, a typed or handwritten copy of the document must be certified as a **"TRUE COPY"** by a courthouse or other official, librarian, etc. An applicant or member of his or her family cannot certify a document as a **"TRUE COPY"**.
17. Married female applicants, who use their husband's name, must include a copy of their marriage record to document their change of name. ***Each legal name change must be documented.***

Membership Requirements:

A onetime application fee of $15.00 covers as many ancestors as can be proven at the time of application. If applicant wishes additional certificate at a later date for additional ancestors a $3.00 fee will cover the additional issuance of a certificate. A five generation chart showing the names of every ancestor being proved and proof documents sufficient to clearly demonstrate that the applicant is directly descended from the pioneer ancestor(s) named on page one of the application form.

1. The pioneer ancestor must have been in Ashland County between Jan. 1, 1871 & 100 years prior to application year.
2. Each step of **DIRECT DESCENT** must be proven from the pioneer to the applicant and **MAY NOT** be omitted for any step.
3. Applications must be legibly printed or typed on the form and supported with copies of documents, pictures, and sources. **ALL** must be sent to CFOAC Chairman along with the application fee in check form made out to the Ashland County Chapter OGS. A review will be made by the lineage chair and a letter of acceptance for at least one ancestor will be sent before the check is cashed. If more names are submitted than can be proven those names will be inactive until the proofs are submitted. The application and proofs shall become the property of the chapter upon acceptance into CFOAC.
4. The nature and extent of evidence submitted as proof shall be sufficient to differentiate between any two persons of the same name in the area at the same time.
5. The Lineage Society Committee will make the final decision before the ceremony and may overrule the Lineage Chair at any time before the award presentation. The committee shall consist of the Lineage Chair, the President, the Senior Trustee of the chapter and whatever number of helpers deemed necessary by the chairman and President of the chapter.
6. If an applicant desires additional certificates for immediate family members, they may obtain them by furnishing proof of that person's relationship to them and a certificate fee of $3.00. If the family member desires full recognition an application needs to be submitted.
7. The presentation of the CFOAC pin and certificate will be held at the November Lineage Banquet each year. Those who cannot attend will receive theirs by mail.
8. The application will be accepted from January 1 to August 31 each year. Any application received after the deadline will be processed the following year.

CFOAC Rules Of Evidence

Primary Evidence:

1. All proofs should be legally document the facts presented. Vital Statistics, courthouse or government records, church and school records are the best proof. Census records, newspaper clippings, old letters, Bible and family record pages, tombstones, etc that are **CONTEMPORARY** to the facts reported will also be accepted. The document **MUST** state the fact to be proved; if it is not stated then two or more documents implying the fact may be used.
2. Indicate the source off proof documents. Bible records need their title page showing the publication date. Newspaper clippings, obits, or other must have a notation of the newspapers name and date published. If not available they will be accepted if they appear to be contemporary to the facts reported. Typed or hand copied legal documents need to be endorsed as a "True Copy" by the courthouse official, librarian, or person in charge; they **CANNOT** be certified by the applicant. Photocopies of original documents are acceptable without legal certification or notarization to keep down expense.
3. Photocopies of local compendiums of original materials such as will abstracts, vital record books, cemetery inscriptions, census images, etc will be accepted without certification when the source is noted. A copy of the original is preferred as they contain more information than the abstracts.
4. When parents are above the normal age for having children they can be suspect and must be proved beyond a doubt. Age 45 for mothers was not uncommon.
5. Marriage records for female applicants make the file more legally acceptable and need to be included.
6. The 1850 census will show proof of residency, but it does not show family relationship. Relationship is not shown until the 1880 census. 1790-1840 census records can only prove the head of household, not the wife or children. Also the listing of Range, Township, Section and Quarter of a homestead should be noted so that we can locate them on a map of the county.

7. Presence in the county must be established prior to December 31, 100 years past from the application date. Deed records, tract books, warrants, grants must show a location within the boundaries of Ashland County. Tax list, census and township records concern only residents of specific townships and are excellent proofs. The date to be shown on the application is to be the earliest date for which proof is given.
8. Female ancestors must be proven as the mother of the child, not merely the wife of a proven father for acceptance. She also must be proven a resident of the county by name and not merely implied wife in pre 1850 censuses. She can be proven as a resident by virtue of the child's birth. Maiden names are not necessary for the above but preferred if known. Obituaries listing parents will be accepted as a death record. If the death certificate states deceased was born in Ashland County and names the parents, the mothers residency is proven by virtue of the birth but not the fathers.
9. Some implications can be acceptable. For example a child with proven birth date and a proven father is accepted as the child of a woman, if she is proven as the wife of the father before and after the child's birth date, even if statement of relationship of the mother of the child is not made.
10. If a preponderance of secondary evidence is supported in an implied way by other proofs, they may be used as support to prove a fact that otherwise is in question. For example materials published more than 75 years ago by a researcher who may have interviewed contemporaries who had knowledge of the facts. Research published by two or more researchers not relying on each others work and supported by proven facts in preponderance of the work, may be used with a legal proof that might not otherwise state all the facts. For example 1850 census showing son stated in two or more histories living with stated father and mother.

Secondary Evidence:

Documentation from historical accounts, printed or manuscript genealogies **ARE NOT** acceptable proof. A person interviewed must know the information from his own knowledge and be contemporary to the facts reported. Circumstantial evidence, implied facts, oral or written family traditions, lineage papers from other societies and materials authored by the family to research the line are not accepted as proof.

Instructions To Applicant: Fill in blocks A, B, and C on this page. List your main ancestral line on pages 2 and 3, beginning with yourself as #1. On page 5 list your proof used to (1) prove your ancestor(s) residence between Jan 1, 181 & Dec 31, 100 years prior to application date and (2) prove your direct descent to your ancestor(s). Type or hand-print all information. A check for $15.00 and an ancestor chart **must** accompany the application. Mail to CFOAC, P.O. Box 681 Ashland, Ohio 44805-0681.

Ashland Co Chapter

Use Only

Application Received_____

Acceptance Date_____

Application Fee_____

FFOAC Certificate No._____

Application 100 YEARS

Century Families of Ashland County, Ohio

A. Applicants Name	Street Address		
Full Name of Husband/Wife	Town	State	Zip Code
E-Mail			

Ancestors of the Applicant Who Were Settled In Ashland County, Ohio Between Jan 01, 1871 & 100 Years Prior to Application

B. Name of Ancestor	Year First Proven in Ashland County, OH	Township in Which First Proven	Ancestor Was From County or State

C. I am a member of the Ashland County Chapter of The Ohio Genealogical Society Yes___ No___
I would like to become a member of the Ashland Co Chapter of OGS Yes ___ No___
I am a member of the Ohio Genealogical Society Yes___ No___

FFOAC Chairman_____ Date_____

Ashland Co. President_____ Date_____

Ashland Co. Sr. Trustee_____ Date_____

The applicant is #1 on this form. The applicant's father and mother are #2. The same applies throughout the remaining portion of this form. To prove both sides of the family, additional forms must be added. Each claim submitted on this application must have documentation. Each document you submit should be identified with a corresponding number from the documentation list on page 2-3 of the application. **Always put the man's name first and the wife's name second!**

1. I _____was born on_____ #_____

At city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage:_____ # _____

Spouse born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

2. _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

3. _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

4. _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

5. _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

6. _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

7. _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

8. _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Please use this for additional lines submitted.

_____ _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

_____ _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

_____ _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

_____ _____ child of _____ #_____

Born:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse:_____ Date of marriage_____ #_____

Location of marriage: _____ #_____

Spouse born_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Spouse died:_____ city/county/state_____ #_____

Documentation List

If more space is needed please feel free to attach an additional sheet of information with continued numbering. This application, information, and all supporting documents and data become property of the Ashland County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

I, _____ (please print/type), the applicant, do hereby attest that the statements set forth in this application, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of the applicant_____ Date:_____

I have read all instructions for this application prior to filling it out: _____

Century Families of Ashland County, Ohio, Ashland County Chapter, OGS. P.O. Box 681 Ashland, Ohio 44805-0681