

First Families of Morgan County

Tennessee

In an ongoing effort to celebrate America 250!, the Morgan County Genealogical & Historical Society (MCGHS) has established a certification program to recognize, honor, and perpetuate the memory of early Pioneers who were residents of Morgan County, Tennessee between the years 1817-1830. The application files will provide valuable documentation on the family history of many of Morgan County's founders and will be available for genealogical research.

Eligibility: The applicant must directly descend from an ancestor who settled in Morgan County during 1817-1830. The applicant must be able to prove residency of the ancestor as well as descent for each generation, including proof of the applicant. Current Morgan County residency is not required. The application must be accompanied by documentation of such descent and the payment of a non-refundable \$20.00 application fee per applicant. Applications with documentation for additional qualifying ancestors will be submitted with payment of a non-refundable \$20.00 application fee per applicant.

Documentation: As a genealogical and historical collaborative, we encourage genealogical research and request photocopies of original documents as proof of lineage. *Do not send original documents as they cannot be returned.* While primary sources offer the best proof, secondary sources may be considered if primary proof is not available. Verified lineage society applications accepted for the line you are applying for. Residence will still need to be established.

Primary Sources include:

Birth, death, and marriage records, wills and probate records, deeds/land, church, tombstone, Bible, military, letters, pages from diaries, court cases, tax, census records, and other eye-witness accounts.

Secondary Sources include:

Newspaper clippings (include name of newspaper, location, and date of publication), published biographical histories and/or sketches, private family papers, and other records made by persons who did not witness the event.

All documents must include a full citation of source. For secondary sources, a copy of the actual page where the fact was found, plus title of source, author, and page number, must be submitted. Bible records must include a photocopy of the title page with publication date and current owner's name and address.

Female ancestors should be identified by their maiden name. Exceptions are made in cases where the maiden name/surname cannot be proven.

If an ancestor has already been proven by another individual, the applicant may submit proof only to the nearest common ancestor, if so desired. A citation to the name and First Families number of that individual must be included. This is only applicable initially to those family members who submit applications together.

Inadmissible Documentation:

Hearsay, oral history, or written family group sheets, and online family trees that do not have full citation including title, volume, and page number of source for each fact (marriage, will, etc.) will not be accepted. Evidence that appears to have been altered will not be accepted.

Application form instructions: Complete the First Families Application Form, Line of Descent Chart, and Source Records Sheet. Applicants that have more than one qualifying ancestor should complete a separate First Families Application Form, Line of Descent Chart, and Source Record Sheet for each ancestor. Additional material is strongly encouraged, such as newspaper articles, photos of people, homes and tombstones, and other material that may be of interest to future researchers. Once an application is approved, a certificate of recognition will be issued to the applicant designating their ancestor as a Pioneer.

Submitted Materials: All applications and supporting documentation will be retained and available for research purposes. Eligibility shall be determined by MCGHS. The committee's decision will be final. Incorrect or incomplete applications will be returned for additions and corrections, and the applicant will need to resubmit.

A check or money order in the amount of \$20.00 made payable to MCGHS should be mailed along with the applications and photocopied proofs to:

Morgan County Genealogical & Historical Society
P. O. Box 684
Wartburg, TN 37887

Genealogical research guidance from MCGHS may be requested to assist in documenting lineage. Email: MCGHSMuseum@gmail.com to make an appointment.