



Homesteaders

Application Instructions

To qualify for **Homesteaders**, you must prove descent from an ancestor who lived in **Allen County, Indiana, in the period January 1, 1851 through December 31, 1875**. You may add more than one pioneer ancestor (such as husband and wife) as long as they are documented. If listed on the 1860 or 1870 Allen County, Indiana, census, residency is proven. If not listed on that census, a naturalization record index listing arrival in Allen County, an obituary stating date of arrival, land records with date of purchase or mention of date of settlement, county histories which state date of arrival, baptismal records of children with 1875 date, etc., are acceptable. **Several of these sources must be used together for an ancestor not listed on the 1860 or 1870 census.**

1. Begin with yourself. You need a birth document or church record to prove your birth and if you are a married female, provide a marriage proof to show your name change.
2. Show proof of parentage for each generation using primary documents when possible.
3. Note the source for each document in the margin or bottom of page.
4. The census will only be accepted for proof of parentage when other primary documents cannot be found.

The deadline for each year's applications is March 31. Accepted proof and eligibility will be determined at the discretion of the First Families Committee. If you do not have enough documentation, your application will be returned; you may add documents and resubmit. Certificates are awarded the second Wednesday of June each year.

Please print all information clearly on your application. Application forms must be completed and accompanied by a pedigree chart (you may use your own chart), **copies** of proof of descent documents, the fee of \$10.00 check or money order to ACGSI, and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Send all packets to ACGSI First Families, P.O. Box 12003, Fort Wayne, IN 46862-2003.

Rules of Evidence

Primary Evidence: birth record, baptismal record, marriage record, census, probate records or other records made by governments or churches at the time the person lived. (Death records are not proof of birth date or parents, only proof of death.)

Secondary Evidence: indexes, obituaries, newspaper or county history articles, directories, tombstone inscriptions, Bible records, internet family histories or letters. Several of these are needed when you do not have primary documents.

Census record copies should show name of county and page number. **Copies of each proving document must be included and identified**, not just listed.