

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOMESTEADERS

To qualify for Homesteaders, you must prove descent from an ancestor who lived in **Allen County, Indiana on or before January 1, 1851 and December 31, 1875**. If listed on the 1860 or 1870 Allen County, Indiana census, residency is proven. If not listed, an obituary stating date of arrival, land records with date of purchase or mention of date of arrival, county histories giving date of arrival, marriage or baptismal records, Allen county directory listings for the appropriate years, etc. are acceptable. **Several of these sources together must be provided for an ancestor not listed on the 1860 or 1870 census. Do not send original documents!**

Each generation will need proof of parentage and in the case of female ancestor descent, a marriage record is needed as well as proof of parentage. Female First Family applicants who are married should include their own marriage record verifying their married name. More than one pioneer ancestor may be claimed, for instance husband and wife, as long as line of descent documents are included.

Please type or print clearly all information on your application. Application forms must be completed and accompanied with **pedigree 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, P.O: Box 12003, Fort Wayne, IN 46862-2003, in care of First Families.

The deadline for each year's applications is April. Accepted proof and eligibility will be determined at the discretion of the First Families Committee. Certificates are awarded the second Wednesday of June each year.

Rules of Evidence

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

Secondary Evidence: indexes, obituaries, newspaper or county history articles, directories, tombstone inscriptions, bible records, letters (Several of these are needed for proof.)

Sources for all printed material should give **title of book, author and page number**. Census record copy should have name of county and page number showing. Proof for each generation starting with yourself, back to your pioneer ancestor is needed. **Copies of each proving document must be included and identified**, not just listed.

Notice

If your application is accepted, all documents submitted will become the property of Allen County Genealogical Society. You will be notified of your acceptance. If an application is rejected due to inadequate proof, you will be notified and given the opportunity to provide further proof. After rejection, you may notify us you would like your application documents returned and can resubmit them at a later time.