



Tennessee Ancestors Certificate Program Application Guidelines

History of Tennessee Ancestors

In 1993, in anticipation of the Tennessee bicentennial in 1996, the East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) launched a new lineage program, *First Families of Tennessee*, to recognize the pioneer ancestors who resided in Tennessee prior to statehood. Then in 2001, a need for grassroots information ahead of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, established its second heritage program, *Civil War Families of Tennessee*. These programs continue today under the umbrella program *Tennessee Ancestors*, which also now includes *1812 Families of Tennessee*, *1870 Families of Tennessee*, *Century Families of Tennessee*, and *World War I Families of Tennessee*. The new certificate programs recognize additional categories of citizens who contributed to the development of the state and nation.

Eligibility

See application for details. Eligibility shall be determined by the East Tennessee Historical Society based on the submitted application.

Instructions

- For locations, use counties rather than towns
- For women, use only maiden names
- Use paper clips; no staples
- Underline names on pages in pencil, pen, or red
- Transcribe pages as needed
- Do not send double sided photocopies of records (single sided only)

Documentation

Applications must be based on credible genealogical research using acceptable proof of lineage. If your application is based on a previously approved application (such as parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, cousin, etc.) it is not necessary to resubmit documentation for overlapping generations. You need only to submit proof of descent for generations needed to link you to previously approved applicant. It is still necessary to fully complete the application and line of descent chart for all applications. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Acceptable records for proof of lineage

- Census records
- Birth and death certificates
- Family Bible records
- Some marriage records when parents of the couple are named
- Estate records including wills, probate, settlements
- Some land records if the family relationship is clearly stated or implied
- Military records if family relationships are stated
- Published county histories
- Published family histories with proper documentation
- Newspaper articles
- Obituaries
- Church records
- Court records
- Tombstones if relationships are stated
- Funeral home records

Additional acceptable proof:

- Application records from the DAR, SAR, and the SOR are acceptable for proof.
- Items from books must include the title page with the author, year of publication, and page number.
- Items from county record books must identify the county, state, name of the book (deed, will, orphan, civil court, etc), book number, and page number.

Unacceptable records for proof of lineage

- Family group sheets
- Heritage books of county histories without documentation
- Findagrave postings of family relationships
- Online postings of family groups

Consult modern standards for acceptable genealogical documentation.

Submitted Materials

All applications and documentation become the property of the East Tennessee Historical Society and the McClung Historical Collection and will be retained in the custody of the McClung Historical Collection. No original documents should be sent. Send a photocopy or other facsimile of pertinent materials.

Application Fees

\$75 – Application for non-members of ETHS, which includes the application fee and one year's membership in ETHS

\$35 - Application for ETHS members or additional applications submitted at a later time with an active membership

\$25 – For each additional application submitted at the same time as initial application

All fees are non-refundable. Applications will not be processed without an active ETHS membership.

Submission

Applications and photocopied proofs, along with a check or money order with appropriate application fees payable to the East Tennessee Historical Society, should be mailed to:

Tennessee Ancestors
c/o East Tennessee Historical Society
P.O. 1629
Knoxville, TN 37901

Contact Ann Blomquist with any questions at 865-215-8822 or blomquist@eastTNhistory.org.



Check List

- ___ Completed Application
- ___ Use paperclips -- NO staples
- ___ Use counties -- NO towns
- ___ Use maiden names for women
- ___ Underline names on pages
- ___ NO doublesided photocopies of records
- ___ Send photocopies -- NO original documents

Application/Membership Fees

1st application \$75 (\$35 if current ETHS Member) = _____

Each additional application \$25 X _____ = _____

TOTAL FEE = _____



Certificate Application

OFFICE USE ONLY

File # _____

Name _____

Date Received _____

Date Returned _____

Date Completed _____

Date Issued _____

Fee _____

FIRST FAMILIES of TENNESSEE

Basic requirement: provable residence in Tennessee by Dec. 31, 1796

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

Are you a current ETHS member? Yes ___ No ___

To whom should the certificate be mailed? _____

ANCESTOR INFORMATION

ANCESTOR NAME _____

Birth _____ Date _____ Place _____ Death _____ Date _____ Place _____

Marriage _____ Date _____ Place _____

County of first residence _____ Earliest date of residence _____

Proof of residence _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____
Maiden name for women

Spouse's Birth _____ Date _____ Place _____ Death _____ Date _____ Place _____

Send to Tennessee Ancestors, c/o ETHS, P.O. Box 1629, Knoxville, TN 37901

LINE OF DESCENT CHART

General directions: Use maiden names for women; use counties for locations; no staples.

1.	Your name _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Date married _____	Place	_____
2.	Child of _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Married _____	Place	_____
	Date died _____	Place	_____
3.	Child of _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Married _____	Place	_____
	Date died _____	Place	_____
4.	Child of _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Married _____	Place	_____
	Date died _____	Place	_____
5.	Child of _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Married _____	Place	_____
	Date died _____	Place	_____
6.	Child of _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Married _____	Place	_____
	Date died _____	Place	_____
7.	Child of _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Married _____	Place	_____
	Date died _____	Place	_____
8.	Child of _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Married _____	Place	_____
	Date died _____	Place	_____
9.	Child of _____	Spouse's Name	_____
	Date born _____	Place	_____
	Married _____	Place	_____
	Date died _____	Place	_____

EACH LINK MUST BE PROVEN. List sources of proof here to match the generation number.

1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____
5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____
9. _____	

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____