



# First Families of Western Pennsylvania

## Application

Be sure to include a supporting document with citation for each statement below. See *Rules of Evidence* for acceptable documentation.

Name of Ancestor \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence in Western Pennsylvania \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

1. I, \_\_\_\_\_  
was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_

who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

we were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

2. I am the child of \_\_\_\_\_

who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_

who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

3. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the child of \_\_\_\_\_

who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_

who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

4. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the child of \_\_\_\_\_

who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_

who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Families of Western Pennsylvania

5. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the child of \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

6. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the child of \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

7. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the child of \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

8. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the child of \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

9. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the child of \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

10. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the child of \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
and married (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
died on \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_  
they were married (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at City \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants Name:



Doc # \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants Name:

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Doc # _____	Description _____
Doc # _____	Description _____

First Family Ancestor \_\_\_\_\_

Name (incl. Maiden name) \_\_\_\_\_ WPGS Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Spouse (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ do certify that the information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this application and the enclosed documents will become the property of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**WPGS Use Only**

Date Application Received \_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance Date \_\_\_\_\_

WPGS Member? Year? \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Paid ? \_\_\_\_\_

First Families Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestor Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed application, documentation, and \$40 check made payable to WPGS-FFWP to:  
First Families of Western Pennsylvania, c/o WPGS, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080



## First Families of Western Pennsylvania

<b>Allegheny</b>	The applicant must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.
<b>Armstrong</b>	The first family ancestor must have been a resident of one of the 26 Western Pennsylvania counties (or in the appropriate section of the parent county) by 31 December 1810. Counties are listed at left.
<b>Beaver</b>	
<b>Bedford</b>	A non-refundable one-time fee of \$40 must accompany the completed application. You may enter as many ancestors as you can prove. The fee covers ancestors submitted at this time or in the future.
<b>Blair</b>	
<b>Butler</b>	Applications are due by 30 November of each year. Members will be inducted at a meeting or seminar to be held in the spring of each year.
<b>Cambria</b>	
<b>Cameron</b>	The applicant agrees that the submitted application and supporting documents shall become the property of WPGS.
<b>Clarion</b>	
<b>Clearfield</b>	The completed application and documentation shall be mailed to: First Families of Western Pennsylvania, c/o WPGS, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080
<b>Crawford</b>	<b>Rules of Evidence</b>
<b>Elk</b>	All evidence submitted as proof shall be sufficient to prove that the applicant is directly descended from the claimed ancestor. The evidence must prove residence of the ancestor by the above date and be sufficient to differentiate between any two persons of the same name residing in the same area at the same time.
<b>Erie</b>	
<b>Fayette</b>	
<b>Forest</b>	The direct line from applicant to first family ancestor must be proved at every step. Blood line descent only is acceptable; adopted children do not qualify as a step in the lineage.
<b>Greene</b>	
<b>Indiana</b>	Remember that <i>quality</i> of evidence is more important than quantity.
<b>Jefferson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Each document submitted must include a complete citation on the front of the document. Applications without citations will be returned. Examples of proper citation may be found in Elizabeth Shown Mills', <i>Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian</i>. Baltimore: GPC, 1997</li></ul>
<b>Lawrence</b>	
<b>McKean</b>	
<b>Mercer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Documents must state the fact to be documented. An individual named as an "heir" in court records is not necessarily related to the testator.</li></ul>
<b>Somerset</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Primary evidence is the best evidence. Birth, death and marriage certificates or courthouse records, such as wills and deeds, are considered primary evidence.</li></ul>
<b>Venango</b>	
<b>Warren</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bible records may be considered primary evidence, if event dates are contemporary with the publication date of the Bible. A copy of the title page must be submitted. The current location of the Bible should be given.</li></ul>
<b>Washington</b>	
<b>Westmorland</b>	

## **Rules of Evidence**

- Letters, diaries, and family records can be accepted if they state facts that the writer could have known "first hand". The identity of the writer and the date of the document are necessary
- Secondary evidence such as census records, newspaper accounts, etc. will be considered as corroborative evidence.
- County histories and family genealogies (published or unpublished) will not be considered as documentation, but as secondary or corroborative evidence.
- Lineage papers from other societies will not be considered as documentation.
- Photocopies of original documents are acceptable. Transcripts, however, must be certified as a "true copy" by a courthouse official, cemetery employee, etc.
- Tombstone photographs must be legible and accompanied by a transcription of the stone.
- Documents written in a foreign language must be accompanied by a translation certified as a "true translation" by the translator (not the applicant or a family member).
- Female ancestors living in western Pennsylvania before 31 December 1810 must be identified by their maiden names.
- Married female applicants must include a copy of their marriage record, if they use their husband's surname.
- Your name and address must be on the reverse of every piece of paper submitted.
- The First Families application form may be duplicated for use as a worksheet or for submitting additional ancestors.

## **Filling in the Form**

All names and dates should be entered as completely as possible. Unproven names and dates should be enclosed in parentheses.

Dates should be entered as follows: 15 Nov 1842

Other acceptable entries would be: Between 10 Oct 1842 - 30 Nov 1842 [i.e. writing and proving of will]; Bef. 1842; Aft. 1842, Circa 1842, etc.

Document numbers should be entered in numerical order on documentation pages 3 and 4. They will not necessarily be in numerical order on pages 1 and 2, since a document may be used to prove more than one fact and a fact may have more than one piece of documentation.

Ex. A will might prove date of death of an individual and also the married name of a daughter,

Ex. A death date might be documented by a death certificate, a tombstone photograph, and an obituary.



**Doc #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Doc #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description**

\_\_\_\_\_

Applicants Name: