

*Lake County Genealogical Society
A Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
184 Phelps Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077*

Dear Prospective Member of First Families of Lake County, Ohio,

We welcome you join a group of the genealogically elite and to honor your ancestors who were settled in the territory which became Lake County in 1840. Residence must be proven prior to 1841, as well as the line of descent from your ancestor to you. If you have never done genealogy, you are in for a treat, as it is an exciting and amazing journey through your own family history. If you are more experienced, you will find benefits of organizing and solidifying your research. Additionally, your documents and findings will aid others in their research, providing good solid, verified lineage.

Upon successful completion of the application and the acceptance of the First Families of Lake County, Ohio committee and the Board of Lake County Genealogical Society, you will be invited to an induction ceremony and a certificate and pin will be presented.

Included in the fee is a one-year membership in the Lake County Genealogical Society. As a member, you are welcome to attend all of its meetings and enjoy all the benefits of said membership.

This packet includes the following:

- Purpose
- Requirements for Membership
- Rules of Evidence
- Membership Application Instructions
- A Four-Page Application
- A Sheet of Helpful Suggestions
- Records of Genealogical Interest in Lake County, Ohio

Should you need assistance with the application or requirements, please feel free to contact any board member of the Lake County Genealogical Society.

We wish you an enjoyable trip through history and hope to welcome you to First Families of Lake County, Ohio and Lake County Genealogical Society.

Sincerely,

Joy McMullen

President **LCGS**

First Families of Lake County, Ohio

Part Of

Lake County Genealogical Society

A Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society

PURPOSE

The purpose of First Families of Lake County, Ohio is to identify and honor the memory of the early pioneers who settled within the boundaries of present Lake County prior to 1841, and to show the proved pioneers lasting mark on the county they helped to carve out of the wilderness and develop, by special recognition of their descendants.

This effort is intended to encourage increasing interest in and perpetuate knowledge and appreciation of the people who contributed in any way - great or small - to establishing Lake County and its culture, customs, genealogy and history.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Eligibility – Membership in First Families of Lake County is open to anyone who can prove direct descent from an ancestor who settled within the boundaries of present Lake County prior to 1841.
2. Application – Applicants for First Families of Lake County, Ohio must complete the First Families of Lake County application form listing one or more of their Lake County ancestors, proving their descent from the ancestor(s), and proving their settlement in present Lake County prior to 1841. Application must be typed or printed in ink. Dates should be shown by day, month and year (16 June 1998).
3. Documentation – The First Families of Lake County application must be accompanied by copies of all documents necessary to (1) prove the ancestor's settlement in Lake County prior to 1841; (2) prove each step of descent from the ancestor to the applicant; and (3) prove all dates stated. Documentation must be photocopies, photos or other facsimile copies.

All proof documents must show their source. Give title, volume and page numbers for book references and include a facsimile copy.

A brief family history, which may be printed in *LakeLines*, the Lake County Genealogical Society newsletter and 5-generation ancestor chart(s) should be submitted with the other documents. These may be incorporated into files in the Genealogy room at Morley Library.

4. Additional Proof Required – When further documentation is requested by the Review

Committee to establish proof, the application will become inactive until the proof is supplied to the committee, at which time the application will be reactivated.

5. Application Fee – Application is \$35.00 for non-members. This fee includes a 1-year membership in the Lake County Genealogical Society. Fee for members is \$25.00. The fee covers as many ancestors as the applicant can prove on this application, who settled in Lake County prior to 1841.

Any later applications listing additional ancestors must be accompanied by a \$5.00 fee for Lake County Genealogical Society members, or a \$15.00 fee which includes a 1-year membership in the Lake County Genealogical Society.

6. Application Process – The application will be reviewed by a Review Committee which will check the documented claims for proof. If additional documentation is required, it will be requested from the applicant. Once the residence and ancestry have been proved, the application goes to the Administrative Board of the Lake County Genealogical Society for approval. A certificate of Membership in First Families of Lake County, Ohio will be issued and signed by the proper authorities and sent to the applicant upon Board approval.
7. Rules of Evidence – The Rules of Evidence are the standards by which all First Families of Lake County, Ohio proof is judged.

RULES OF EVIDENCE

1. **PRIMARY OR COLLATERAL EVIDENCE** from vital statistics, courthouse or other government records, church records and school records, etc. are usually considered *excellent proof*.
2. **SECONDARY EVIDENCE** such as census records, newspaper clippings, old letters, Bible or other family records contemporary to the facts reported are considered *almost as authentic*.
3. Old letters, family records, etc. can be accepted as proof for only the facts that the writer could logically know as **CONTEMPORARY KNOWLEDGE**. Identification of the writer and the date is necessary. County histories or other published biographies also must have been written by someone with contemporary knowledge, **NOT HEARSAY**, to be acceptable.
4. All proof documents must state their source. Bible records should include a photocopy of the title page with publication date and owner's name, if available.
5. Documents used as proof must, either alone or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, actually state the fact to be proved.

6. Female ancestors living in Lake County prior to 1841 **must** be identified by their **MAIDEN NAMES**.
7. Married female applicants must include a copy of the marriage record to prove their change of name.
8. Photographs of tombstones are acceptable, along with another substantiating document, for proof of birth and death dates and for relationships actually stated on the stone. Published compilations of tombstone inscriptions are similarly acceptable if no additional information has been written that is not on the stones themselves.
9. A **Direct Line** from applicant to pioneer ancestor must be proved **AT EVERY STEP**. Collateral descent does not qualify. Adopted children or step-children do not qualify as a step in a lineage. It must be **BLOOD LINE DESCENT ONLY**.
10. Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
11. A tax list before 1841 is usually a record of taxes levied in 1840 or earlier, and could, therefore, prove residence prior to 1840 if the record actually states that the individual was a resident.
12. Land transactions (deeds, grants, warrants, etc.) Are acceptable only if they specify that the individual was a resident of what is now Lake County, since many early landowners and speculators never lived in Ohio.
13. Typed, handwritten, or printed copies of original documents must be certified as a **“TRUE COPY”** by courthouse or other official, or a librarian, etc. An applicant or a member of his or her family cannot certify a document as a “true copy.” Photocopies of original documents are acceptable as copied if there are **NO CHANGES ON THE ORIGINAL**.
14. Ohio Genealogical Society First Families of Ohio applications and certifications are considered proof for Lake County ancestors. Lake County requires copies of the supporting documents for the Chapter files.
15. **CIRCUMSTANTIAL** evidence, implied facts, or hearsay are **NOT** accepted as proof unless backed up by Primary or Secondary Evidence.
16. Oral, written or published **FAMILY TRADITIONS** may be wrong and are **NOT** accepted as proof unless backed up by Primary or Secondary Evidence.
17. Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical records or compilations, family group sheets and charts, family reunion records an similar material generated are **NOT** considered proof alone but may be included as preponderance of evidence. Unsupported information from an amateur or a professional genealogist is **NOT** acceptable.

18. Lineage papers, accepted or unaccepted, from other patriotic or hereditary societies by themselves are **NOT** considered proof for First Families of Lake County, Ohio.
19. Material authored by the applicant or a member of his or her immediate family cannot be considered as proof.
20. Documents written or printed in a foreign language must be accompanied by a translation into English and the translation certified as a “true translation” by the translator (not the applicant or family member).
21. Examples of **IMPLIED PROOF** which are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** are:
 - A. Unnamed individuals specified in court records as “heirs-at-law” or “heirs” unless it is known that applicable laws at the time included only bloodline descendants.
 - B. Census Records which show the name of the head of the family only, along with numbers of family members or others by age group, prove only the family head actually named. Next door or close neighbors on a census or tax record do not prove any relationship by themselves.
 - C. A father is not proved as being in an area just because his child was born there. The birth only proves the mother was there.
 - D. Blood descent is not necessarily proved by owning the same land as an earlier owner by the same name, whether the land was inherited or purchased.
22. **REMINDER:** A statement is not necessarily true just because it is in print.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Completed membership applications together with all documents should be mailed to :

First Families of Lake County, Ohio
The Lake County Genealogical Society
184 Phelps Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077

MAILING CHECK LIST

Completed and signed four-page Application Form
All Proof Documents
A brief history of each early ancestor claimed
A completed 5-Generation Ancestor Chart(s)
Application Fee

All evidence submitted will become the property of Lake County Genealogical Society.

APPLICATION FEES

Initial Application	Members	\$25.00
	Non members	\$35.00
Later Applications	Members	\$5.00
	Non members	\$15.00

\$10.00 of the non member fees includes a 1 year membership in Lake County Genealogical Society.

Membership in the Lake County Genealogical Society is a requirement for membership in first Families of Lake County, Ohio.

Updated 11/21/2009

FFLC No. _____

FIRST FAMILIES OF LAKE COUNTY, OHIO APPLICATION

Applicant's Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
First Middle (Maiden) LAST

Street Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date _____

ANCESTORS WHO WERE SETTLED IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO PRIOR TO 1841

<i>Name of Ancestor</i>	<i>Year First Proved In Lake County</i>	<i>State or Country Ancestor Came From</i>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____

(For Committee Use Only)

PROVED ANCESTORS

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

APPROVED BY

Date _____

Application & Fee received _____

Review Committee _____

Executive Board _____

Lake Co. Gen. Soc. _____

Signatures _____

Membership Cert. _____

Issued _____

LINEAGE

I, _____
born on _____ at _____
married on _____ at _____
to _____ born on _____ at _____
died _____ at _____
Proof _____

2. The said _____ was the child of
_____ born on _____ at _____
_____ died on _____ at _____
and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____
_____ died on _____ at _____
_____ married on _____ at _____
Proof _____

3. The said _____ was the child of
_____ born on _____ at _____
_____ died on _____ at _____
and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____
_____ died on _____ at _____
_____ married on _____ at _____
Proof _____

4. The said _____ was the child of
_____ born on _____ at _____
_____ died on _____ at _____
and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____
_____ died on _____ at _____
_____ married on _____ at _____
Proof _____

5. The said _____ was the child of

born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

married on _____ at _____

Proof _____

6. The said _____ was the child of

born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

married on _____ at _____

Proof _____

7. The said _____ was the child of

born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

married on _____ at _____

Proof _____

8. The said _____ was the child of

born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

married on _____ at _____

Proof _____

9. The said _____ was the child of

_____ born on _____ at _____

_____ died on _____ at _____

and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____

_____ died on _____ at _____

_____ married on _____ at _____

Proof _____

10. The said _____ was the child of

_____ born on _____ at _____

_____ died on _____ at _____

and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____

_____ died on _____ at _____

_____ married on _____ at _____

Proof _____

RESIDENCY

1. The said ancestor, _____,

was known to have settled in the boundaries of current Lake County at _____ in the year _____

and his wife _____ settled in the year _____ at _____

Proofs _____

1. The said ancestor, _____,

was known to have settled in the boundaries of current Lake County at _____ in the year _____

and his wife _____ settled in the year _____ at _____

Proofs _____

CHILDREN OF PIONEER ANCESTOR (If Known)

	Name	Date of Birth
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

Remarks or Additional Notes: _____

I, _____ do hereby swear that the statements set forth in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date _____ Signature _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR FIRST FAMILIES OF LAKE COUNTY, OHIO APPLICANTS

The process of preparing an application for a lineage society can take a long time. Try to make it as painless as possible by sitting back and enjoying the journey. Get to know your ancestors along the way. Collect all the documents you can find on each ancestor. Do not forget your collateral lines—those aunts and uncles who share similar lines.

Before beginning, we suggest you make a copy or two of the application to use as a work sheet. When you are ready to mail your packet, make a copy of every page you are sending to keep for your records.

The following are types of records that may help prove the facts you need. Regular certificates or court records are the proofs of choice, but on occasion, they are unavailable. Multiple proofs may be submitted.

BIRTH

Complete Birth Certificate	School Records
Delayed or Corrected Birth Certificate	Baptismal Certificate
Doctor/Midwife Record	Other Church Records
Newspaper Announcement	Social Security Application
Census	Job Application
Enumeration of Youth	Passport

MARRIAGE

Complete Marriage Record (includes “return”)	Newspaper Announcement
Marriage Bond/Bann (Church)	Tombstone
Minister’s Records	Cemetery Records
Divorce	Marriage Certificate (Decorative)

DEATH

Complete Death Certificate	Church Record/Notice
Complete Death Record	Obituary
Funeral Home Record	Funeral Card
Insurance Policy	Accident Reports
Coroner’s Report	Social Security Death Record
Fraternal Organization Records	Institution of Residence Record

RESIDENCE

Census	Personal Property Tax Records
Institutional Records	Probate Records
Birth Record (for child and mother)	Land Records
Military and Pension Records	Resident Real Estate Tax Records
Bible and Family Records	Church Registers
Enumeration of Youth	Passports
County Histories (with caution)	Election Records
Genealogies (with caution)	

Lake County OH GenWeb may have some helpful information at www.rootsweb.com/~ohlake/. Ohio Genealogical Society’s First Families of Ohio, DAR, SAR, and many other lineage societies may have a similar packet for your ancestor or a relative.

Below is an example of one generation of an application. Numbering your documents in the top corner for easy location is extremely helpful. The citation should also be on the border of a document. Do not mark on the face of the certificates except in the margins.

3. The said Eugene Belat LOUDEN was the child of
Ohio Dayton LOUDON born on 26 July 1860 at Wayne Twp., Columbiana, Ohio
died on 29 NOV 1936 at Painesville, Lake, Ohio
and his wife Maggie Myrtle BELAT born on 31 AUG 1880 at Hanover Twp., Columbiana, Ohio
died on 17 DEC 1903 at Flushing, Belmont, Ohio
married on 24 MAY 1900 at Columbiana Co., Ohio

Proof (12) 2nd marriage of Ohio Dayton LOUDON to LIZZIE C. POLLOCK
(13) Death Certificate of O.D. LOUDON
(14) Marriage Record of O.D. LOUDON to Maggie BELAT
(15) Birth record of Maggie M. BELAT
(16) Death certificate of Margaret (Maggie) LOUDAN

There are several ways of writing the history of your ancestor(s). This is left to your imagination and creativity, but some suggestions might get you started. The genealogy is otherwise included in the application, so it is not necessary to repeat this, unless it aids the story. A history should include those things you know about your ancestor which make him a person.

It can include some history of the area. For instance, if your ancestor was a miller, you might include some insight into the milling industry of the time, the type of power used, etc.

A history can include family lore, if it is so stated. Do not use stories, rumors or guesses as facts. Sometimes the lore is the only source of certain facts which cannot be proven. Use caution if the items may be hurtful and are not likely to be facts.

A history can be written from any perspective. First person is from your point of view, such as "When I was a boy and Grandpa George told me..."

It could be written in first person from the point of view of the ancestor, sounding like he wrote it. It could start with "If James could have told you about his life, it might be like this:" Then "Why, when I was a boy..."

It could be written as a scholarly work with footnotes and sources. (Sources are always good no matter which method you chose.) Or, you could mimic a biography from a county history of the 1890s.

A picture or illustration may be included if desired, if not copyrighted.

This history of your ancestor can have quotes in it, but should be your own creation. If you think you are not a good writer, some editing could be done before publishing. You are the only one who can put the ideas down. After all, you did the research. Enjoy this little task as a sharing of your family history.