

Settlers and Builders of Richland County, Ohio

RULES OF EVIDENCE

The rules of evidence applying to membership in Settlers & Builders of Richland County, Ohio, follow and are the standards by which all SBRC proof is judged. *There are no exceptions.*

The nature and extent of the evidence submitted as proof in all applications shall be sufficient to prove that the applicant is directly descended from the pioneer(s) named in box B of the SBRC application blank, and sufficient to differentiate between two persons of the same name residing in the same area at the same time. Proof must be included to show residence in Richland County, Ohio, between 1 January 1841 and 31 December 1860. **Documentation MUST be provided for each date listed**, even if only an approximation (e.g., born c 1810 per 1850 census).

BASIC RULES

1. Primary or collateral evidence from vital statistics, courthouse or other government records usually is considered excellent proof. Other primary evidence might include Bible records (which must be contemporary with the publication date of the Bible or events), diaries or letters.
2. Secondary evidence such as census records and newspaper clippings (applicant must give the name of the newspaper, location, page and date of publication) might be used as corroborative evidence. County histories and family records CONTEMPORARY TO THE FACTS REPORTED are considered as supporting evidence only.
3. Circumstantial evidence WILL NOT be accepted as proof unless supported by primary or secondary evidence.
4. Oral, written, or published family traditions may be in error and CANNOT be accepted as documentation.
5. Printed or manuscript genealogies, genealogical records or compilations, family group sheets and charts, family reunion records and similar material are not considered proof. Unsupported information from an amateur or a professional genealogist is not acceptable, including such records printed in any genealogical, historical, or similar publication.
6. Lineage papers, accepted or unaccepted, from other patriotic or hereditary societies (including First Families of Ohio, Society of Civil War Families of Ohio, DAR or SAR, etc.) *by themselves* are not considered proof. The documents used to prove the lineage MIGHT be considered proof for SBORC if they follow these rules.
7. Material authored by the applicant or a member of his or her immediate family cannot be considered as proof.
8. Documents used as proof must, either alone or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, actually *state the fact to be proved*.

Examples of implied proof that are not acceptable are:

- A. Unnamed individuals specified in court records as “heirs” or “heirs-at-law” 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 household only along with numbers of family members or others by age group prove only the family head actually named. The 1850 through 1870 census cannot be used as proof of relationship. Nextdoor 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.

9. 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 a family member).
10. Old letters or family records 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. To be acceptable, county histories or other published biographies also should have been written by someone with contemporary knowledge, **not hearsay**.
11. Land or tax records are acceptable only if they specify that the individual was a resident of Richland County, Ohio, since many early landowners and speculators never lived in Ohio.
12. Female ancestors living in Ohio before 1861 must be identified by their maiden names. Exceptions are made only in the case of African Americans and Native Americans, and only when such ethnicity is proved.
13. Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
14. A direct line from applicant to pioneer ancestor must be proved at each step, including the spouse in each generation. Collateral descent is not applicable. Adopted children do not qualify as a step in lineage. Bloodline descent only is acceptable.
15. Proof is required for each date listed for both persons in each generation. All documents must include a full citation. The title, volume and page number must be written on the copy itself. Bible records must include a photocopy of the title page with publication date and current owner’s name and address.
16. Photocopies of original documents are acceptable as copied if there are no changes on the original. If it is not possible to make a photocopy of a document, a typed or handwritten copy of the document must be certified as a “TRUE COPY” by a courthouse or other official, librarian, etc. An applicant or member of his or her family cannot certify a document as a “TRUE COPY.”
17. Married female applicants, who use their husband’s surname, must include a copy of their marriage record to document their change of name. *Each legal name change must be documented.*
18. Photographs of tombstones are acceptable for proof of birth and death dates and for relationships *actually stated on the stone*. Published compilations of tombstone readings are acceptable, if no additional information has been included that is not actually on the stones.
19. If an ancestor has been proved previously by another individual, the applicant may submit proof only to the nearest common ancestor, if so desired. A citation to the name and number of the **SBO member** must be included.
20. Deadline for applications is December 31 of each year.
21. Reminder: a statement is not necessarily true just because it’s in print.



Settlers and Builders of Richland County, Ohio Application

Instructions to Applicant: Fill in A, B, C, and F on this page. List your main ancestral line on pages 2 and 3, beginning with yourself as #1. Type or hand print all information. A check for \$15.00 must accompany the application. There is no additional charge for supplementary applications. Any new or supplementary applicant must be a current member of Richland County Genealogical Society. The application fee is non-refundable. All applications with appropriate fees should be returned to Richland County Genealogical Society, c/o OGS, 611 St. Rt. 97 West, Bellville OH 44813-8813.

A	Applicant's Name	Street Address		County
	Full Name of Husband or Wife	Town	State	Zip

Ancestors of the Applicant who resided in Richland County, Ohio, between 1 January 1841 and 31 December 1860:

B	Name of Ancestor	Years of Birth -- Death	Year first proved in Richland County	Previous place(s) of residence for ancestor

My Richland County Genealogical Society Dues are paid for the year _____	C
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Treasurer's Verification _____	D
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E	RCGS USE ONLY PROVED ANCESTORS	I.D. Number
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

F	FILLED BY APPLICANT E-mail address and phone number _____ _____
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G	RCGS USE ONLY Settlers and Builders of Richland County, Ohio number _____ Date application received _____ Date of acceptance _____
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APPROVED BY:

Settlers and Builders of Richland County, Ohio, Committee Chair _____ Date _____

RCGS President _____ Date _____

I, _____
was born on _____ at _____
City County State

2. I am the child of _____
born on _____ at _____
City County State
died on _____ at _____
City County State
and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State
died on _____ at _____
City County State
married on _____ at _____
City County State

3. The said _____ is the _____
of _____
Son or Daughter

born on _____ at _____
City County State
died on _____ at _____
City County State
and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State
died on _____ at _____
City County State
married on _____ at _____
City County State

4. The said _____ is the _____
of _____
Son or Daughter

born on _____ at _____
City County State
died on _____ at _____
City County State
and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State
died on _____ at _____
City County State
married on _____ at _____
City County State

5. The said _____ is the _____
of _____
Son or Daughter

born on _____ at _____
City County State
died on _____ at _____
City County State

and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State

died on _____ at _____
City County State

married on _____ at _____
City County State

6. The said _____ is the _____
Son or Daughter
of _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State

died on _____ at _____
City County State

and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State

died on _____ at _____
City County State

married on _____ at _____
City County State

7. The said _____ is the _____
Son or Daughter
of _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State

died on _____ at _____
City County State

and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State

died on _____ at _____
City County State

married on _____ at _____
City County State

8. The said _____ is the _____
Son or Daughter
of _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State

died on _____ at _____
City County State

and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____
City County State

died on _____ at _____
City County State

married on _____ at _____
City County State

Basic Rules of Evidence

This application and the accompanying documentation will be evaluated as follows: Primary or collateral evidence from vital statistics, courthouse, or other government records, church and school records, etc., is considered usually to be beyond doubt, and excellent proof. 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. Circumstantial evidence, or hearsay, is not considered as proof unless backed up by primary or secondary evidence. Oral, written, or published family traditions are very often wrong and are not accepted as proof. All proof documents must by themselves or in combination with other documents actually state the fact to be proved.

Requirements for Settlers and Builders of Richland County, Ohio

Any member of The Richland County Genealogical Society who is a direct descendent of an individual who resided in the area originally encompassed by Richland County between 1 Jan 1841 and 31 Dec 1860 may become a member of Settlers and Builders of Richland County, Ohio, on the acceptance of an application with proof of such descent and the payment of a \$15.00 application fee. Membership must be approved by the RCSB Committee. Applications should be sent to the *Richland Genealogical Society, c/o OGS, 611 State Route 97 West, Bellville OH 44813-8813.*

Give volume and page for book references and include a copy machine, photo, or other facsimile copy of the pertinent pages, and of all published or unpublished records used for proof. Typed, hand printed, or written copies of documents, not certified as "True Copies," are not acceptable as proof. Published or manuscript material authored by the applicant or his family will not of themselves be accepted as proof. Information for additional ancestral lines may be included on blank pages, showing the tie-in to the line on the basic application. If more than two lines are submitted, please include an ancestral chart to show the inter-connections. Only bloodlines are acceptable.

Authorities as to residence in Richland County, Ohio, for ancestors submitted:

Authorities as to descent: (List and include facsimile copies as stated above).

Each step must be proved; references for all dates included in the application must be provided.

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

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

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

This application and all its supporting documents become property of Richland County Genealogical Society.
