

First Families of Polk County, Missouri

Founding Families 1835-1860

Pioneer Families 1861-1879

Settler Families 1880-1899

Century Families 1900-1935

Eligibility:

1. To receive a Founding Family Certificate an applicant must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who came to Polk County between 1835 and 1860.
2. To receive a Pioneer Family Certificate an applicant must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who came to Polk County between 1861 and 1879.
3. To receive a Settler Family Certificate an applicant must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who came to Polk County between 1880 and 1899.
4. To receive a Century Family Certificate an applicant must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who came to Polk County between 1900 and 1935.
5. Applicant must be able to prove descent with an acceptable source of proof (i. e.: census records; obituaries; birth, death or marriage records; school or church records; newspaper clippings and any other records showing proof.)
6. Applicant does not have to live in Polk County or ever have lived in Polk County.

To apply for a certificate, each applicant will need to complete an application form. The applicant will need to submit documentation to substantiate the information included in the line of descent chart.

Application Fees

There is a \$25 fee for the first application in any of the four family divisions. Additional applications within each division will be \$10. All fees must be included with the applications.

Guidelines for Completing First Family Applications

1. Read, read, and re-read your application and rules so you better understand what you are to do.
2. Photocopy your blank application, make several copies to practice on.
3. Type or print all parts of the application that you are to fill in. If we can't read it, we can't accept it.
4. Documentation: Make sure all documents are in order; starting with Generation 1 (yourself).
5. Label each document by generation.
6. Be sure to include documentation of residency for the time frame you have chosen.
7. Please put your name on the back of each document.
8. Do not submit original documents: photocopy all documents, photos, etc

Hint: Address labels are an easy way to get your name on the back of the documents.

First Families of Polk County

Rules of Acceptance

1. Documentation for each generation must be included with the application.
Documentation must also be included to show residency during the time frame chosen.
Do not send original documents. Photocopy all documents and send in the copy.
2. All documents must be numbered with the generation number to which it applies. Staple all documentation for each generation together.
3. Accepted Sources of Documentation: vital records, courthouse or other government records, church records, school records, census records, obituaries, old letters,. Copies of courthouse records such as birth, marriage, or death certificates, wills, deeds, estate settlements, or civil suits where ancestors name appears need not be certified. Give location where found i. e., book, case number, page number, location of Courthouse or government building, etc. Bible records will be also considered. (Include Bible face page with Bible record.) If using an obituary as documentation, give name of paper and date.
4. Not accepted as documentation: oral, written or published family history unless another document can prove it also.
5. If using female lines, always include the maiden name, showing proof of this. This includes a marriage certificate or birth certificate proving the change of name.
6. Pictures of tombstones with name and date on it will also be accepted as proof of ancestor. Include a clear photograph of the tombstone with information as to where the cemetery is located.
7. Highlight the ancestor's name on all documentation papers.
8. Send completed application with documentation and application fee to
First Families of Polk County
Polk County Genealogical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 632
Bolivar, MO 65613
9. A certificate will be awarded upon approval of the application by the First Families Committee.