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Lineage Societies come in all shapes and forms. If you are curious about how many there might be, just do a “Google” search for “lineage societies”. There are only 15,100,000 results to work your way through. Some of the best-known lineage societies are Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Mayflower Descendants, War of 1812, and others.

We will mainly focus on the societies for the Ohio Genealogical Society. Keep in mind that our standards are among the highest and people will often join one of our lineage societies to make sure they are “doing it right” before they go on to another society. That is high praise for the OGS lineage chairs.

### **Why Should You Join a Lineage Society?**

Many people who join lineage societies do so for the prestige of being able to prove their pedigree. A lot of research goes into lineage society applications, so you know when you are accepted into one, you really have proven your lineage and that you are descended from a prestigious, prominent, or not so prominent person. It can give you bragging rights on your family tree, and it tells you that you have done your researching well. Many applicants get other family members to join lineage societies based on their own applications.

Some societies have genealogical libraries that are only open to members (or only open for free to members). The opportunity to network with other people who have similar ancestry to you is also nice. There is also a very strong possibility of you meeting a genetic relative in a lineage society (someone who is descended from the same person as

you), which gives you the opportunity to exchange family information, and maybe even discover new family artifacts, documents, records, and photos that you never knew still existed.

Other reasons for joining a lineage society include bringing awareness to the particular group or time in history that the society celebrates, participating in the society's charitable endeavors (some engage in charity and public service, while some do not), getting that coveted membership certificate for your wall, being able to contribute your own genealogy research to the society, the thrill of accomplishment when you are accepted as a member, and the opportunity to get out and socialize with people of similar interests to yours at meetings.

You are leaving a legacy of your family for future generations. In essence, your lineage application may become that family book you were always going to write. And, when you write a book you want it to be the best that you can make it. That is the ultimate goal for your lineage application as well – to make it the best that it can be.

<https://www.ogs.org/about/lineage/>

<https://www.cyndislist.com/societies/lineage/early-america/>

<https://ancestralfindings.com/lineage-societies-join/>

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/hereditary-societies>

## **WHERE DO I START?**

1. Read the rules of the group you want to join. *Read them again!* Ask questions of the chair if needed.
2. Create a 5-generation chart (or more if necessary) to lay out your family of ancestors.
  - A. Look at the dates of places of where they were born, married, and died. Look at when they came to Ohio.
  - B. Look at children, spouses, and parents.
  - C. Add as many ancestors as you can fully document.
3. Make copies of any original documents. We do not want (or need) the originals.
4. Create a folder on your computer for this project. You can easily scan your documents to this folder.
  - Label the folder so you know where you put everything.
  - Make sub-folders for each person or couple on the Ascent Chart
5. Start sorting your documentation files by each person according to the Ascent Chart in the application.

Documentation is not shared between the different lineage societies.

All applications and their accompanying documents become the property of the Ohio Genealogical Society

#### Section A: Membership Requirements and General Information

1. Applicants must be current members of The Ohio Genealogical Society, except for some applicants to the Society of Families of the Old Northwest Territory.
2. Applicants must prove appropriate dates of residency in addition to proving lineage.
3. Appropriate dates of acceptance can be found on each individual lineage application form.
4. Only blood lines are eligible. Adoptive lines are not eligible.
5. Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
6. Eligible Ancestors:

A new applicant who has never applied to any OGS Lineage Society:

**Applying to one society:** any eligible ancestors will be admitted to the society, with proper documentation, to which the applicant has applied even if documentation has been included that proves the ancestors are eligible for another lineage society within OGS that has an earlier date of residence.

**Applying to more than one society at the same time:** any approved ancestors will be placed into the society to which the ancestor is eligible based on the data in the applications but only into societies to which the applicant has actually applied.

#### **An applicant who already has approved ancestors in one lineage society and is now applying for a second lineage society:**

1. Any ancestor who has already been accepted into a lineage society that has an earlier date of residence than the one to which the applicant is now applying shall not be eligible for acceptance into the society with the later (more recent) date of residence.
2. Any ancestor the applicant has previously submitted for a society shall not be accepted in a society with a later date of residence even if that ancestor was not accepted in the society with the earlier date. However, the applicant may at any time in the future submit additional documentation in support of acceptance of that ancestor into the society with the earlier date of residence.
3. Any ancestor who has not already been accepted in, or who was previously submitted for acceptance but lacked sufficient documentation for acceptance, in an OGS Lineage Society with an earlier date of residence and is eligible for acceptance into the society for which application has been made, will be accepted in the society for which application has been made, even if supplied documentation proves that ancestor eligible for a society with an earlier date of residence.
4. Any ancestor who is already accepted in a society with a later date of residence can be submitted for acceptance in a society with an earlier date of residence with submission of the appropriate application with sufficient documentation and the necessary fee. If the ancestor is found to be eligible under the rules of the earlier society the ancestor will then be accepted for the earlier society without affecting membership in the later society

**Submitting additional ancestors to that same lineage society in future years after being approved for a particular lineage society.** OGS refers to this process as submitting a supplemental application.

- If submitting a supplemental application, include a reference to your previous application and the line you are following.
- Do not submit documentation previously submitted.
- Supplemental applications are *not for your children, grandchildren, siblings or other relatives. They must submit their own applications.*

Married applicants must include records for their marriage and for their spouse's birth (and death, if applicable).

Each **legal** name change for anyone listed on the application must be documented.

Information for additional ancestral lines may be included on additional applications or on the extra un-numbered generation application sections provided at the end of each application. Application pages may be photocopied to provide space for additional ancestors.

If an ancestor has been previously proven by another individual, the applicant may submit evidence only to the nearest ancestor. Include the name and member number of the appropriate lineage society member. It also helps to include a note of explanation and a 5 generation chart showing the connections.

All females must be identified by their maiden names in order to be approved. Exceptions are made only in the case of African Americans and Native Americans, and only when such ethnicity and lack of surname is proved.

List and submit documentation for multiple spouses for females, even if they are not in the ancestral line(s) you are following in the application. This substantiates name changes.

## **RECORDS I WILL NEED**

For every name, date, and location listed on the Ascent Chart, you need documentation to prove that fact. If you know a person was born in Cleveland, Ohio but the record only says Cuyahoga County, Ohio you can only use Cuyahoga County. The same with dates. If it does not specifically state the exact day and month and year, you can only use what the document states.

## **PRIMARY RECORDS**

Records made at the time of the event

- Birth, death, and marriage certificates
  - Be especially careful with death certificates. Not all information is correct
- Headstones
- Newspaper obituaries, birth or marriage announcements
- Wills (to prove parent/child or spousal relationships)
- Baptismal records
- Family Bible records
- Census records
  - Only starting with the 1880 Census are the whole family listed
- Court records (such as probate records)
- Land records

## **SECONDARY SOURCES**

Created after the event in question.

- Family history books
- County history books
- Oral interviews
- Compilations of records or indexes
- Old letters

Abstracted information and indexes are generally not acceptable proof.

## **SOURCE CITATIONS**

All documents must include a full source citation to the original source. This requirement is true for internet and traditional source documents. Other researchers should be able to use the citations to find the document themselves. Citations may be written in any accessible location on the front of the photocopy, or you may include a photocopy of the title page showing all bibliographic information. Some citation requirements:

- Court Documents: Give state, county, volume and page number.
- Books and other published works: Give all bibliographical information (author/editor, title, publisher, city of publication, page number, and copyright date).
- Military Records: Give all identifying information such as packet number,

publication series and, if on microfilm, roll number. Cite repository. Include any additional pertinent citation information.

- Family Bible Pages: Must be accompanied by a photocopy (or True Copy transcription; see #3 above) of the Bible's title page and of any section showing the publication date of the Bible. Bibles must be contemporary with the information they prove. Please list the Bible's provenance and the current owner.
- Family Records: Old family papers may be accepted if the provenance of the family papers is stated and the application contains other documents that support the information these papers prove.
- Census Photocopies: Must show, or have written on the front of the copy, all necessary finding information, i.e. town, county, state, year and date of census. Please do not send census summaries typically found on such sites as Ancestry. Reviewers need to see the original census page. In some cases, photocopies from census books, done by reputable organizations such as local genealogical societies, may be substituted.
- Photographs must be identified, preferably on the back side.
- Tombstone Photographs: Must be identified by cemetery name and location. If the tombstone is not legible, a written transcription must be included.
- Newspaper Articles and Obituaries: Should show the name and city of the newspaper and the date and page of publication. If the newspaper item has been clipped out and no identifying information exists, please state the provenance of the clipping, e.g. "my grandmother saved these in an old shoebox and gave them to me in 1957."
- If the document is copied from microfilm, add the microfilm number and the repository where you used the microfilm.
- Internet Documents: If the document was obtained from an internet web site, you must cite the original source and must list the web site name, URL and date of access. Please do not copy and paste a long web address leading to a specific document. Citing the web site name, URL and date of access is sufficient for future researchers to find the same document later.
- Electronic Format Publications: Cite as if it were the printed copy of the publication but include the web page URL and date accessed or the title and other bibliographic information for the CD (or other media storage) publication.

## **Examples of Source Citations**

Probate Court Birth Record: Birth of John Smith on dd/mm/yyyy in (town/township, county, state) showing parents as Jim Smith and Betty Jones. (You need to submit both pages of a Probate Birth Record) Probate Records require a notation of the volume/book, the page number and the repository (courthouse, library, etc) or website where the record was found.

Regular Birth Certificate: Birth Certificate of Mary Jones born dd/mm/yyyy in (town, county, state) to parents Tom Jones and Mary Smith

Probate Court Death Record: Death of Charles Doe on dd/mm/yyyy at age 77 years, 5 months, 2 days in (town, township, county, state). ) Probate Records require a notation of the volume/book, the page number and the repository (courthouse, library, etc) or website where the record was found.

Regular Death Certificate: Death Certificate of Charles Doe who died on dd/mm/yyyy at (town, county, state) showing parents as (father/mother) and a birth date of dd/mm/yyyy.

Marriage Returns: Marriage of (groom/bride) on dd/mm/yyyy at (location) from (county) found in volume 2, page 376. (If the marriage return includes the names of the parents, that information can be included as well) All marriage records (including your own marriage certificates) should reference the volume, page, and repository of where the original record can be found.

Court Records require a notation of the volume/book, case number, the page number and the repository (courthouse, library, etc) or website where the record was found.

Source citations should include the Who, What, Where, and When of the document being presented. Source citations let future researchers know where to find the original documents. Source citations assist the judges in reviewing your application.