

McDonough County Lineage Certificates

The McDonough County Genealogical Society takes pride in offering the McDonough County Lineage Society Program to honor early McDonough County families. Your work in proving your ancestor's early years will be preserved for future generations by the MCGS.

Your application and accompanying documentation will make a significant contribution to the record of our county's heritage and your family's participation in that heritage.

Pioneer Family

Ancestor proven to have resided in McDonough County by 1850 and prove all steps of descent from the pioneer to the applying member.

Legacy Family

Descendant can prove an ancestral line has continuously lived in McDonough County from 1860 to the present day.

Veteran Citizen

Ancestor was a veteran of any of the following wars as defined by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs AND was a citizen of McDonough County at some time during their lifetime.

- a. Revolutionary War
- b. War of 1812
- c. Mexican War
- d. Civil War
- e. Spanish-American War
- f. World War I
- g. World War II
- h. Korean War
- i. Vietnam War
- j. Desert Shield/Desert Storm

Applying members must show proof of veteran's status and residency in McDonough County at some time during the veteran citizen's lifetime.

Century Family

Honors ancestors proven to have resided in McDonough County 100 years before the current year.

Documentation Instructions

You must be a current member of the McDonough County Genealogical Society to apply for these designations. An application and the membership fee may accompany your application. (Individual membership - \$25, Family membership - \$35, Lifetime membership - \$225.)

- Send only copies, not original documents. We do not return materials sent to the Society.
- Stack the documents in the order of the worksheet.
- Do not use highlighter, staples, tape of any kind, white-out products, gummed labels, sheet protectors, or binders.
- To indicate specific evidence in difficult-to-read document photocopies, use a red pen or pencil to mark an arrow in the margin of the document or use a blue, non-photocopying pencil to underline. These pencils are available at hobby and art supply stores.
- Print or type your full name on the back of each piece of evidence.
- Only one photocopy of any document is necessary even though that document may be used as proof for more than one event, more than one generation, or more than one applicant. If you are submitting applications for multiple family members, MCGS only needs one photocopy of documentation for common ancestors. Multiple photocopies of the same document will be discarded due to storage limitations.
- Retain copies of everything!

All documents must include a full citation to the original source. Citations should be written on the front of the photocopy, or you may include a photocopy of the title page showing all bibliographic information.

The following documents may be used by the reviewer:

- a. Personal
 - i. Letters
 - ii. Bibles
 - iii. Other items deemed adequate by the reviewer
 - b. Official Documents
 - i. Vital records
 - ii. Deeds
 - iii. Wills
 - iv. Censuses
 - v. Newspapers
 - c. c. We can assist you in your search for these documents or suggest ways to prove your descendency.
- Give state, county, volume and page for all court documents.
 - Give all bibliographical information for published works.

- Give all identifying information for military records such as packet number, microfilm roll number or other necessary information.
- Family Bible pages must be accompanied by a photocopy of the Bible's title page and any section showing the publication date of the Bible. Bibles must be contemporary with the information they prove. Please list the current owner of the Bible.
- In some cases, family records were kept in other ways. Old family papers may be accepted if the provenance of the papers is stated. *Provenance* is defined as evidence of the history of the ownership of a particular item.
- Census photocopies should show, or have written in, all necessary finding information.
- Photographs must be identified, preferably on the back side.

All living individuals information will be sealed and not available to the public in order to protect sensitive information of living individuals.

All applications and supporting documentation become the property of the McDonough County Genealogical Society. Applicants must be a member of MCGS. Each application must include a non-refundable fee of \$20.00 U.S.

Documentation Requirements

The McDonough County Genealogical Society requires applicants to present documented evidence proving the carrier-line in each generation. Full documentation for spouses is expected for birth, marriage and death, but not parents of the spouse. The spouse is considered an important part of each generation.

As described below, primary sources are preferred and usually only one primary source document is required. A secondary source may be accepted by itself, but more often is combined with other secondary or circumstantial sources. Circumstantial sources nearly always require additional sources for support. Sources deemed not acceptable are considered so because they are either not independent, considered hearsay, or consist of a claim rather than evidence or proof.

Primary Source Evidence

- Vital Records of Birth, Marriage and Death
- Church records
- Bible records which provide relationship
- Marriage bonds and licenses
- Land Deeds
- Wills, Probate records, Guardianships or Orphan's Court Records
- Military Service or Pension Records
- Cemetery and Morticians Records (usually for death only)
- Social Security Application Papers (usually for birth)
- Contemporary family letters and diaries. Contemporary is defined as produced at the time of the event.

Secondary Source Evidence

- County or Town Histories
- Family Genealogies (published only)
- Federal/State Census records 1850 or later. (Note: If they do not show family relationship, two sequential census records should be submitted or the census will be considered circumstantial evidence).
- Newspaper Obituaries
- Newspaper Marriage Notices
- Photo or photocopies of gravestones inscriptions (the cemetery name, and complete location should be included)
- Affidavits (dependent on time period).

Circumstantial Source

- Federal/State Census records which do not show family relationship.
- Family Bible records that do not show family relationship.

Unacceptable Sources

- Indexes to any other Lineage Societies.
- International Genealogical Index (IGI, Ancestral File (AFN) and Pedigree Resource Files).
- Family Group Sheets and Pedigree Charts.
- Information from Family Web Pages sourced from the Internet.
- Most unpublished handwritten, typed or computer-generated genealogies.