

First Families of Blair County

FIRST FAMILIES OF BLAIR COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

Blair County Genealogical Society, Inc.

431 Scotch Valley Road

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Phone: 814-696-3492

Membership requirements:

1. Any person is eligible if they can prove they are a direct descendant of a Blair County resident in 1846.
2. Illegitimacy is not grounds for denial.
3. A one-time non-refundable application fee of \$25.00 must accompany application on submission.
4. Sufficient proof of descent of every ancestor claimed to form the direct line must be provided. After application is reviewed you may be notified whether further documentation is needed. The application can be resubmitted with additional proof without additional expense.
5. Applicants who have had their descent approved will receive a certificate from the First Families of Blair County Pennsylvania.
6. Deadline for applications is December 31 for induction the following year.
7. A brief biographical sketch for each early settler claimed would also be appreciated, but is optional.
8. This application becomes the property of The Blair County Genealogical Society and will be remain private unless permission is given otherwise.
9. The ancestral charts will be used for a First Family publication. Please share as much information as you can.
10. The documentation (bible records, etc.) will become the property of the society unless you request otherwise. This information may be used at a later date for publications in the Society.

Application instructions

1. Submit the completed application with photocopies of proof documents. Do not send original documents. Photocopies should be 8 ½ by 11 and legible whenever possible.
2. Do not use highlighter, staples, tape of any kind, white-out products or labels.
3. Print or type your full name on back of each document submitted.
4. Organize your proof documents by generation before beginning to number them. Number each piece of evidence in the upper-right hand corner according to corresponding number on the documentation record sheet.
5. Use full names of all persons, include maiden name for all females.
6. Married females must include a photocopy of their marriage record.
7. Divorce records are required to show name change from previous marriage.
8. Proof of ancestor's residency in Blair County, 1846, must be furnished.
9. Use genealogical format for dates, Example: 7 Feb. 2007
10. Documents must include proper documentation. (Title, page number, volume number, town, borough, and/or township, etc.) Microfilm must show reel number and full name of microfilm/fiche etc.

Applicant

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spouse's Name _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

I give permission for the Blair County Genealogical Society to share my application to help others in their search. (Yes / No)

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

Signature of Applicant _____ *Date* _____

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BASIC RULES OF EVIDENCE

Primary or direct evidence provides the answer to a question it was created at (or very near) the time the event occurred by someone present at the event such as a Doctor. Vital statistics, courthouse, or other governmental records, school records, etc., are usually considered excellent proof. See examples below:

Primary Sources	Estates	Government records
Birth Records, delayed birth	Administrations	Poll List
Marriage Records	Estate Settlements	Real Estate Taxes
Death Records	Inventories	School Records
Divorce Records	Final Settlements	Insurance Applications
Diaries	Signed Receipts	Jury Lists
Bible Records (depending on date, hand writing etc.)	Guardianship Records	Naturalizations
	Land Deeds	Military Records (Pensions)
		Social Security Applications

Secondary evidence is evidence copied or compiled from other sources written long after the event by someone who may not have been present at the event or passed down from generation to generation. Census records, newspaper clippings and obituaries, old letters, or other family records (contemporary to the facts reported) and with corroborating evidence are considered almost as authentic.

Secondary Sources
Census Records: (copies not transcriptions or indexes)
Church records: Baptismal, membership, marriages, deaths, burials, etc.
Newspaper: clippings, obituaries, legal notices, etc.
Bible: (contemporary to the fact), depending on date, handwriting, etc.
County Histories:
Cemetery Records:
Tombstone Photos:
Family Histories: other documents must be used to back up family histories
Old letters

1. Documents used as proof must stand-alone or in conjunction with other acceptable documents, must actually state the fact to be proved.
2. Land or tax records are acceptable only if they specify that the individual was a resident of the county since many early landowners never lived in the county they owned land in.
3. Female ancestors must be identified by their maiden names.
4. Married female applicants must include a copy of their marriage record to prove their change of name.
5. A direct line from applicant to ancestor must be proved at each step, including the spouse in each generation. Collateral descent is not acceptable.
6. All proof documents must state their source. Proof is required for each date listed for both parents in each generation. Bible records must include a photocopy of the title page with the publication date and current owner's name and address.
7. Tombstones are acceptable for births and deaths (when no birth or death record exists) and for relationships actually stated on the stone. Such as: wife or child of etc. Published compilations of tombstone readings are acceptable when the tombstone no longer exists. Obituaries from newspapers may also be used to prove birth or death when no record exists.
8. Circumstantial evidence such as implied facts or hearsay is not accepted as proof. Examples are: 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. Owning the same land as an earlier owner by the same name does not necessarily prove Blood descent, whether the land was inherited or purchased.

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PROOF SHEET

Please fill in completely – “at” refers to City, Township, County, and State. Please number from document which applies to generation in PROOF BOX.

1., _____
born on _____ at _____

Proof Box

2., I am the child of _____
born on _____ at _____

Proof Box

died on _____ at _____

and his wife _____ born on _____ at _____

died on _____ at _____

married on _____ at _____

3. The said _____ was the child of _____

_____ born on _____

Proof Box

at _____ died on _____

at _____ and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____ died on _____

at _____ married on _____ at _____

4. The said _____ was the child of _____

_____ born on _____

Proof Box

at _____ died on _____

at _____ and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____ died on _____

at _____ married on _____ at _____

5. The said _____ was the child of _____

_____ born on _____

Proof Box

at _____ died on _____

at _____ and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____ died on _____

at _____ married on _____ at _____

First Families of Blair County

6. The said _____ was the child of _____

Proof Box

_____ born on _____

at _____ died on _____

at _____ and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____ died on _____

at _____ married on _____ at _____

7. The said _____ was the child of _____

Proof Box

_____ born on _____

at _____ died on _____

at _____ and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____ died on _____

at _____ married on _____ at _____

8. The said _____ was the child of _____

Proof Box

_____ born on _____

at _____ died on _____

at _____ and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____ died on _____

at _____ married on _____ at _____

9. The said _____ was the child of _____

Proof Box

_____ born on _____

at _____ died on _____

at _____ and his wife _____

born on _____ at _____ died on _____

at _____ married on _____ at _____

First Families of Blair County

Biographical Sketch of _____

Write a brief account of your First Family ancestor. Start with a chronological sequence, birth, marriage etc. You could write about the ancestor's childhood, occupation, hobbies, military service, daily life, and/or any subject that interest you.

Lined writing area consisting of 25 horizontal lines.

Written by _____
Date _____

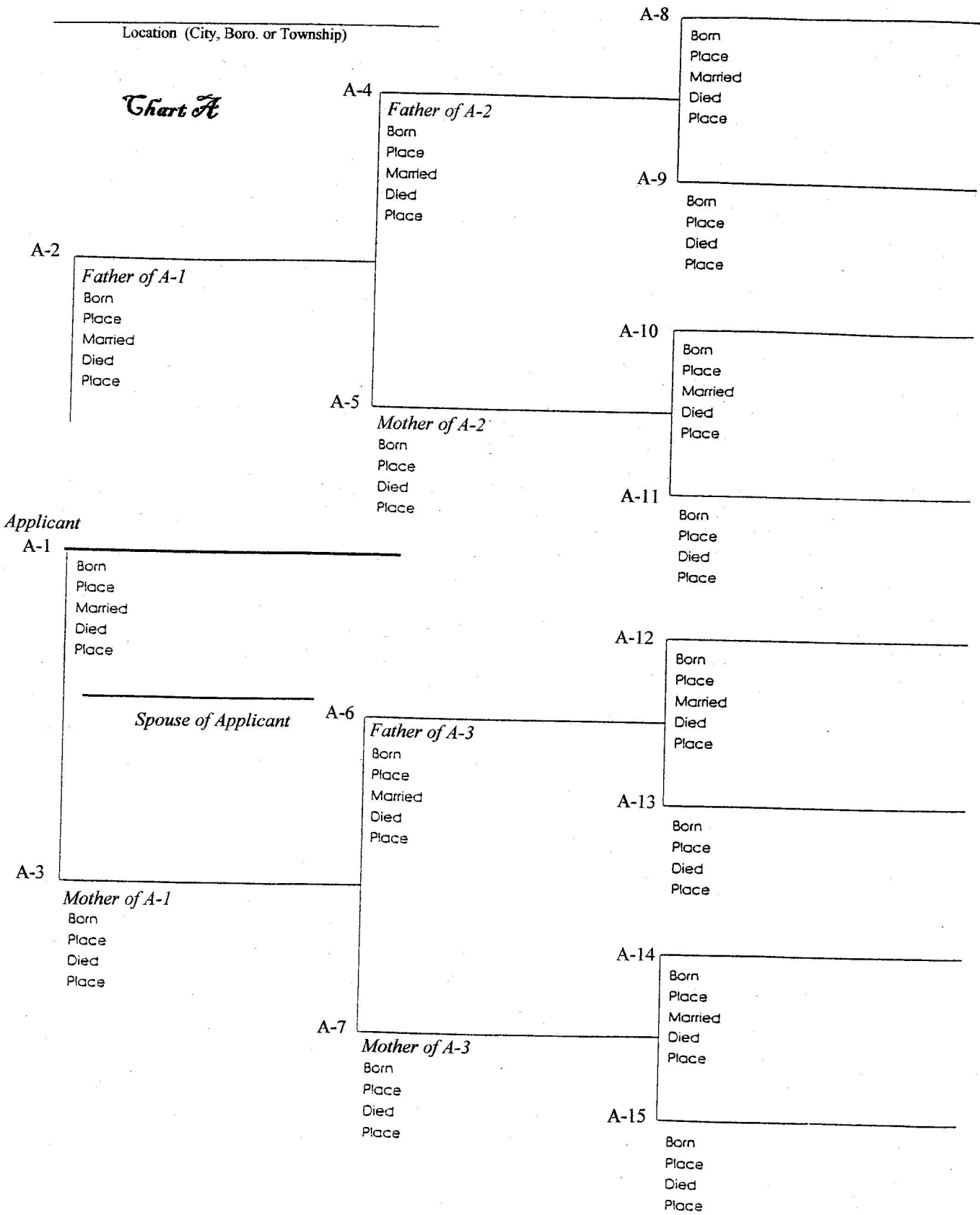
First Families of Blair County - Ancestral Charts

Submitted by _____
 Name Address City State

First Family Ancestor _____
 Name

Location (City, Boro. or Township) _____

Chart A



First Families of Blair County - Ancestral Charts

Submitted by _____
 Name Address City State

First Family
 Ancestor _____
 Name

Location (City, Boro. or Township)

Chart B

