

**FENTRESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FIRST FAMILIES OF FENTRESS COUNTY CERTIFICATE**

FIRST FAMILIES OF FENTRESS COUNTY started in 1998 as a way to recognize and honor those who can prove they had an ancestor living in Fentress County when the county was organized in 1823. The idea grew out of FIRST FAMILIES OF TENNESSEE, a project of East Tennessee Historical Society that was associated with the 200th anniversary of Tennessee's becoming a state in 1796. Nineteen Ninety Eight marked the 175th year since the establishment of Fentress County.

ELIGIBILITY: To qualify for a First Families of Fentress County Certificate, the applicant must directly descend from an ancestor who settled in the area of Fentress County as laid out in 1823. The applicant must be able to prove descent from the ancestor (male or female) by an official records or records. Each generation back to the ancestor must be proved by the applicant. Current Fentress County residency by the applicant is not necessary.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the line of descent on the lineage chart from the ancestor living in the area in 1823. If you have more than one ancestor in the area, please complete a separate application for each one. Only one ancestor will be inscribed on the certificate. The exception will be when both husband and wife qualify. We encourage the use of a supplementary for to include, when known, names of all children in all generations in direct line of descent, including whom they married, down to and including your own family.

PROOFS: To ensure that the certificate is the result of credible genealogical research, the following *PRIMARY RESOURCES* are deemed acceptable. Vital records (births, marriage, and death); probate records; land records; tax records; all census records (local, state & federal); military records (state & federal); church, mortuary, cemetery and court records. Also acceptable are Bible records, tombstone inscriptions and obituaries. The inclusion of the following supplemental resources are encourage but may not be accepted as proof of lineage: newspaper clippings; published family histories; published county histories; published biographical records; city and county directories. Private papers and personal records such as letters, diaries, journals and reminiscences may be evaluated on an individual basis.

SUBMITTED MATERIALS: All applications and verifying material will become the property of the Fentress County Historical Society. No original documents should be sent. Send a photocopy or scanned image of pertinent materials. Applicants are encouraged to include biographical information on their Fentress County First Family Certificate ancestor.

Eligibility will be determined by a committee appointed by the Fentress County Historical Society, whose decision will be final. An incorrect or incomplete application will be returned for corrections or additions and the applicant will be encouraged to re-submit. Applications and copies of all documentation should be mailed with a check or money order payable to the Fentress County Historical Society to:

**First Families of Fentress County
c/o Fentress County Historical Society
P. O. Box 1431
Jamestown, TN 38556-1431**