



Grundy County Founding Families 180th Anniversary Application

In recognition of the **180th Anniversary of the formation of Grundy County on 29 January 1844**, the Grundy County Historical Society will issue a commemorative certificate honoring all who can prove their ancestor was in Grundy County in 1844 and through 31 December 1870 (on the 1870 Census).

Instructions to Applicants: Fill in all blanks. Type or print clearly. Dates should be in the following format: day/month/year, e.g. 31 Dec 1844. **Attach (non-refundable) check or money order in the amount of \$20 made out to Grundy County Historical Society and send to address below.** Applications can be picked up at the Grundy County Historical Society, online via facebook, or requested by sending an email to Tina Anderson: tinantam@gmail.com.

Eligibility: To qualify for a Founding Families Certificate, the applicant must be **directly** descended from an ancestor who was in Grundy County no later than the 1870 Census.

Proof: Proof of ancestry and residency may be shown by official records (birth, death, marriage, probate or will, church, cemetery, funeral or obituary, land records, deeds, tax, court, military, newspaper, Bible, old private documents, published family histories, county histories, biographical records, and city/county directories) for **each generation**, including proof for the applicant. (See last page of this application for proof sources.) **Current Tennessee residency is not necessary.** If your application is based on a previously approved application (such as a parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, etc.), it is not necessary to resubmit documentation for overlapping generations. You need only send proof of descent for generations needed to link you to the previously approved applicant.

Submitted Materials: All applications and verifying material become the property of Grundy County Historical Society. Send a photocopy of pertinent materials. **Do not send original records!**

**Grundy County Historical Society Founding Families Committee
c/o Tina Anderson
110 Gwynne St
Smyrna, TN 37167**

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

April 30, 2024 for Presentation during a celebration event in Grundy County in the Summer of 2024
Applications will be accepted for later certificate distribution at any time

A. Applicant's Name (as it will appear on the certificate)

(Mailing address)

Founding Families Committee Use Only

Ancestor's Name _____

Application No. _____

Date Received _____

Date More Info. Req'd _____

Date Approved _____

Certificate No. _____

Linked App No. _____

Comments _____

(City, State, Zip)

(Phone number with area code and e-mail – for contact)

B. Name of Founding Ancestor (as it will appear on the certificate)

Birth _____ Death _____
(date) (place) (date) (place)

Married _____
(date) (place) (married by – name of Rev., J.P., etc.)

Ancestor's Spouse: _____
(given name) (maiden name)

Birth _____ Death _____
(date) (place) (date) (place)

Residence _____
(not required, but if you know the District or area of residence)

Source of Proof for Founding Family's residence _____

(Acceptable sources: tax list, census, land deed or grant, will, probate, court records)

C. Family Direct Line Of Descent Chart

Important: the Line of Descent Chart must be filled in for **all generations**, beginning with **yourself as #1** and working back to the **founding ancestor**. For each generation, the **direct line** (whether male or female) should be listed to **the left**. **Each step must be proven**. Please **number** photocopied **proofs** to correspond to **generation numbers**. **Important:** Keep a copy of this page. If we need additional information, you will need this page as reference.

Gen 1: I, _____ was born _____
(your name) (date)
at _____
(city) (county) (state)

I married _____
(name of spouse) (date of marriage) (place of marriage)

Gen 2: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 3: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 4: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 5: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 6: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 7: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 8: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 9: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 10: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 11: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

Gen 12: Child of _____
Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____
Death Date _____ Death Place _____
Married to _____
Date _____ Place _____

List Sources of Proof as to Descent

Documentation must be submitted to prove **each generation** of descent.

Please **number photocopies** of proof to correspond to generation numbers. Example: **You are number 1.**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Signature of applicant _____ **Date** _____

SPECIFIC SOURCES OF PROOF

PRIMARY SOURCES are defined as contemporary and/or government records made at the time of the event by the parties involved. These records are deemed acceptable sources in proving relationship from one generation to another.

BIRTH RECORDS and DEATH RECORDS

Tennessee birth and death records have been kept statewide since 1914. Birth and death records also were kept for the period 1908-12, but these are often incomplete and do not show relationships. Some of the metropolitan areas such as Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Memphis recorded births and deaths as early as 1881, but these records are fragmented and often cover only a few months or years.

MARRIAGE RECORDS

Tennessee marriage records are available from the County Court Clerk in the county where the marriage took place. Marriages after July 1, 1945 also are available at Office of Vital Records, Tennessee Department of Health and Environment, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville TN 37247.

CENSUS RECORDS

Although Tennessee federal census records are available beginning in 1820, the 1850 census is the first to name every person in the household and include age and birthplace. Grundy County marriage records, cemetery records and census records for 1870 are available at the Grundy County Historical Society.

WILL/ESTATE RECORDS

Wills/estates (testate: with will) (intestate: without a will): guardianships, lists of heirs and relationships, name changes, and sometimes transfer of real estate. Wills and estate records are kept in the Clerk & Masters Office.

LAND RECORDS & PLATS

Purchase or sale of property often shows residency and marital relationship. Available from the county where the land was owned. Records are maintained by the Register of Deeds.

TAX RECORDS

Taxes were paid on property on a yearly basis. Records may be located in the Register of Deeds and/or tax assessor's office in county where the land was located.

MILITARY RECORDS

Records include muster-in and muster-out, pay vouchers, pension papers, and military bounty land warrants (before 1856) for WWI (1914-1918); Spanish-American War (1898-1899); Civil War (1861-1865); Indian and Other Wars (1816-1898); Mexican War (1845-1849); War of 1812 (1812-1815); Revolutionary War (1775-1783). Records are available from the National Archives & Records Service, 8th & Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20408, and online at Fold3.com.

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records often contain birth, death, marriage, and funeral information of their membership.

COURT RECORDS

Civil, criminal, divorce and naturalization records begin from formation of the county and may be located in the circuit court or superior court where the event occurred.

SUPPLEMENTAL OR SECONDARY SOURCES are any sources in print that do not come from a contemporary or government record. These records will be evaluated as documentation on a case-by-case basis. The inclusion of these records is encouraged. Photocopies of these materials will provide valuable material for future generations in using this permanent file.

FAMILY HISTORIES/ COUNTY HISTORIES

A published family history/genealogy or county history will be accepted for proof of descent for ONE GENERATION ONLY. When submitting this type of material, include a copy of the title page and photocopies showing direct ancestral descent and location of the book.

BIBLE RECORDS

Dated and/or undated. Include a photocopy of the page showing the publisher, date of publication, and the actual pages showing names, dates and events. Identify current owners of Bible when known.

OBITUARIES	Dated and identified, when known, name of newspaper and location. Most libraries have copies of local papers.
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS	Give name and location of newspaper. Clippings may include anniversaries, biographical sketches, awards, marriage notices, reminiscences, etc.
BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORIES	Many Tennessee counties have at least one history with biographical sketches.
PERSONAL PAPERS	Unpublished written data include letters, diaries, journals, reunion records, and manuscripts. Please include dates.
TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS	Submit photos or transcriptions of the stone. Also include the name and location of the cemetery. Tombstones do not often indicate parentage.
FUNERAL HOME RECORDS	Local funeral home records, when available, often give birth and death information as well as names of parents and other relatives.
LINEAGE ORGANIZATIONS	Descents already approved by lineage organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution, Colonial Dames, United Daughters of the Confederacy, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, etc. or any other that requires proof similar to standards required for this certificate will be accepted. Submit a copy of signed and dated lineage application that includes line of descent. IT IS STILL NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM IN ITS ENTIRETY

***NOTE:** There are also many Genealogy sites online that have much of this information available such as Ancestry, My Heritage, FamilySearch and many more with online access to many of the above documents (not all, but many) that charge a subscription fee to access the documents. Ancestry will allow you to build and keep as many trees (and as large) as you like perpetually without charge; although access to their documents will require a subscription. I always encourage people to download copies to a thumb drive/etc and keep all the documents you find. My Heritage limits your tree building without a subscription and access to documents also requires a subscription. FamilySearch is free with free documents, but not as easy to navigate for beginners; and keep in mind, while you can build and keep a tree on FamilySearch, it is a WORLD TREE. Meaning everyone's trees link and join with your tree to form one large tree. It also means other people can change it. On all sites, living person's information is kept PRIVATE, unavailable to others. These are just a few examples of online tree research companies if you choose to go the online tree route in researching your ancestor. There are also two main online graveyard sites (people contribute cemetery tombstones and burial information): Findagrave and BillionGraves.