

First Families of the Twin Territories

An Invitation to Descendants of the Early Settlers of Oklahoma

First Families of the Twin Territories, a nonprofit adjunct organization under the jurisdiction of the **Oklahoma Genealogical Society**, was founded to recognize, honor, and perpetuate the memory of early Pioneer and Indian families who were residents of Oklahoma or Indian Territory on or before the date of statehood, 16 Nov 1907.

If you can prove each generation of your direct lineage back to an individual who settled in one of the Twin Territories, you are eligible for Lifetime Membership in **First Families of the Twin Territories**. When approved, you will receive a handsome certificate, an attractive gold-tone lapel pin, and an annual newsletter. You will have your own membership number.

You are invited to complete the Application for Membership and submit it with the qualifying documents and a check for your one-time membership fee. The fee of **\$30.00** registers you through one documented ancestor. **To register more than one ancestor**, (some members have several eligible ancestors), you should **submit another (supplemental) application for each ancestor** and include a **\$10.00** payment for each certificate requested. (See further explanation on page 2.) You may register through a single ancestor or several, according to your wishes and the documentation you provide.

If another family member (such as your child or sibling) wishes to register through a previously documented ancestor, that applicant must submit an application form – following the same process described above – and enclose his/her check for **\$30.00**, or more if also filing supplemental applications. However, do not submit duplicate documentation. Provide the documents necessary to link an additional applicant to an ancestor who has already been documented, then under “List Documents Here,” write “See Member #_____”.

As a genealogical organization, we encourage credible genealogical research and require legible copies of original documents as proof of lineage. If you are not familiar with standard genealogical practices concerning documents, you may want to research this at your local historical society, genealogical society, or public library.

Sources for some of these records are **county courthouses for marriage, land and probate records; the state departments of health for birth and death records; and genealogical libraries for local and county records, cemetery information, city directories, etc.** The Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center in Oklahoma City has copies of census records, state newspapers (from earliest published to present day), indexes to homestead applications, Indian emigration rolls, and many other early day Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory records.

If you desire assistance with your research, an OGS volunteer will research at the Oklahoma Historical Society Library for a fee of \$25.00 for the first hour which includes the cost of postage and up to five photocopies and \$20 for each additional hour. **For assistance with your research, write to:** Genealogy Assistance, Oklahoma Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 12986, Oklahoma City, OK 73157. Send payment for the first hour and a **self-addressed stamped envelope** with your request.

For Questions about the FFFT organization, about applying for membership, or queries concerning the application instructions write to **FFTT, Oklahoma Genealogical Society**, P.O. Box 12986, Oklahoma City, OK 73157-2986, or e-mail FFTT@okgensoc.org or telephone 405-637-1907.

FILL OUT the Application Form by using a typewriter with black ribbon, handwritten, or as computer fill. Handwritten applications should be printed neatly and legibly using black ink. If computer fill is used, it is recommended that you first open the file, then "save-as" file to your computer using Ancestor's name. You will want to save the file periodically as you fill, until it is completed. Then print a copy to submit along with documents. Write dates in this format: **1 Jan 1890**. You will need to submit a **separate form for each ancestor** through whom you wish to apply. **An exception may be made for a husband and wife, married before 16 Nov 1907, and both documented together as being in one of the territories.** If qualified, the couple may be on the same certificate at no additional charge. See examples below.

APPLICANT is the living person wishing to apply to First Families of the Twin Territories.

Note: If you are a married woman, you need to show both maiden and married names [for example, Mary Ellen (Smith) Brown]. A married woman may register under her maiden name if she wishes. Name changes for women **MUST** be documented and marriage AND divorce records sent, if applicable.

THE FIRST Generation is You, the applicant. Use your full name. **The right-hand column must give the name of the document you are using to prove the statement on the left.**

Example: 'I was born on': 2 Jun 1942 'List Documents here': my birth certificate

CITE a document in the right-hand column for each line of information provided in the left-hand column. See above example. **Documents must be enclosed with application.** (Note exception: **If documents have been previously provided, do not duplicate; just refer to "Member # _____".**)

DOCUMENTS: Do not send original documents – send copies only.

- Be sure each document includes the source.
- *When public records are non-existent, other sources may be used.* These include Bible records, obituaries, tombstone inscriptions, notarized affidavits of living relatives, baptismal records, etc. **Label these records,** such as obituaries with source newspaper and date, or tombstone photos with location of cemetery. If from a family Bible, or published book, send a copy of the title page and the page on which the record appears.
- For locations, list as much information as is available, including city or town, county, district, nation, or territory. Names of locations should appear as they were on the date of the event (i.e. birth, census, marriage).
- For census records, provide a copy of the actual census page (including identifying information at the top of the page). The summary page provided by Heritage, Ancestry, etc. may be provided for clarification, but the **actual census page is required.** An enlargement of a section may be included in addition, to make the entry readable.
- **If census record, Bible record, or other document is faded and/or difficult to read, please accompany it with a typed transcription.**
- *Family group sheets, pedigree charts, and undocumented family history books are not accepted as proof for this certificate. Applications, approved or not, from other lineage societies are not acceptable.*

THE SECOND Generation will be your parents, the third your grandparents, etc. On these, and on the remaining generations, a married woman is shown using her maiden name only: *Mary Ellen Smith*. Where application says "and his () wife" - use "only," "first," "second," etc., to complete the blank area. Work back through each generation until you reach the ancestor(s) you wish to register.

Sample styles for listing ancestor names and residence on your application:

Robert Hayes Chapman & Eliza Myrtle (Knight) Crider,
who were married at Sentinel, Washita Co., O.T. on 24 Mar 1907

Minnie Florence (Hill) Strong, who was born near Clinton, Custer Co., O.T. on 29 Oct 1895

Rolley Chapman, who resided in Wetumka, Western District, I.T. on 02 Mar 1907

James L. & Rebecca "Fannie" (Williams) Knight,
who resided in Cloud Chief, Washita Co., O.T. on 28 Sep 1898

Review before mailing application: Have you enclosed the application(s), all listed documentation, signed Book Authorization, and your check made out to "Oklahoma Genealogical Society" for the proper amount? Please return the OGS/FFTT Book Authorization form – even if you deny permission for printing. Just write "permission denied" in the middle of the form and sign.

Mail application with documents and check to: *First Families of the Twin Territories*, Oklahoma Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 12986, Oklahoma City, OK 73157-2986. [Note: Checks will not be deposited until an application is approved. Please allow at least eight weeks for a response.]