

First Families of Multnomah County Application Packet



Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.
2505 SE 11th Avenue, Suite B-18
Portland, Oregon 97202-1061

info@gfo.org

503-963-1932

www.gfo.org

Application Information and Guidelines

In 2009, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc. (GFO) established a program to recognize some of the "First Families" of Multnomah County, Oregon, by issuing a certificate to descendants in one of three categories to qualified descendants.

Certificate title:	Resident before . . .	the date of:
Pioneer	22 December 1854	Formation of Multnomah County
Early Settler	11 September 1883	Completion of the transcontinental railroad to Portland
Lewis & Clark Expo	15 October 1905	Closing date of the Lewis & Clark Exposition

Applications for a certificate will be accepted from anyone who is attempting to prove direct descent from an individual residing within Multnomah County before 15 October 1905. Once verified by standard genealogical rules of documentation, certificates will be issued by mail to the applicant.

The application fee is \$20 and is non-refundable. The applicant may request additional certificates for documented descendants of a previously submitted settler for an additional \$15 each.

All verified material *may* be published and made available for purchase. Descendants, including certificate holders, born after 1940 (the date of the last public federal census) will be listed only as "Living," unless their consent is given to use their name. Any supporting documents dated after 1915 will be shredded.

Additional application forms are available on the GFO website (www.gfo.org) or may be requested by sending a #10-sized, self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

GFO - First Families of Multnomah County
2505 SE 11th Ave., Ste. B-18
Portland, OR 97202-1061

Completed forms may be photocopied if certificates are being requested for more than one settler or for more than one descendant. A separate application must be submitted for each ancestor for whom a certificate is requested, including one primary or two secondary proofs of the earliest date of residency within Multnomah County. All applications and documentation becomes the property of the GFO and will not be returned. Send only photocopies of documentation, DO NOT submit original documents.

A complete application follows these guidelines and includes:

1. Type or print legibly using a BLACK ink pen.
2. Use full maiden names for all females.
3. Write dates using this format: day, three letter abbreviation of the month and full year (example 14 Feb 1859)
4. Write locations using this format: City or Township, county, state, country.
5. Identification of supporting documents (see below for definition of acceptable documents).
 - a. Write on each item of documentation the corresponding number to the person/event it is intended to prove, i.e., #1 on a copy of a census page to prove residency, #2 on a birth certificate to prove descendancy #2, etc.
 - b. Place the item number in upper right corner of the documentation.
 - c. All forms and documentation must be legible. PHOTOCOPIES NOT FULLY LEGIBLE MUST INCLUDE AN ATTACHED TRANSCRIPTION OF THE ILLEGIBLE TEXT.
 - d. All documentation must include a source citation written legibly on the back of the item. For proper forms of citation, please see guides such as *Evidence!* or *Chicago Manual of Style*.
 - e. Send only **copies** of your original documents as they will not be returned to you.
 - f. Include a family group sheet for each generation listed. (Supporting documentation for each group sheet is appreciated but not required.)
6. Place all supporting documents in numerical order and attach them to the back of your completed application form.
7. Sign and date the completed application form and mail it to:

GFO - First Families of Multnomah County
2505 SE 11th Ave., Ste. B-18
Portland, OR 97202-1061

Acceptable Supporting Documentation

Primary Sources (at least one per relationship):

1. Federal, Territorial or State Census (must show year of census, county, state, page number, line and/or family number.
2. Vital records (birth, marriage or death certificates).
3. Court records including wills, probate, naturalization, voting records, tax records, etc.
4. Land records including Donation Land Claim number, a direct and/or indirect deed which includes county, state, Deed Book and page number.
5. Military service, school or church records.

Secondary Sources (at least two sources per relationship):

1. County histories/biographies, city or county directories (include a copy of the title page and give the name and address of the repository where the book is located.)
2. Dated newspaper accounts of events including obituaries (include the title and date of the newspaper and the repository where the newspaper can be found).
3. Original journals/diaries, family Bibles (include a copy of the title page and the name and address of the person currently in possession of the book).
4. Mortuary, cemetery records, photographs of tombstones (include the physical address of the business or cemetery).

FIRST FAMILIES OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Application Form

Applicant's Name _____

Establishing descendency from (ancestor) _____

Certificate Level

Pioneer (prior to 22 Dec 1854)

Early Settler (prior to 11 Sept 1883)

Lewis and Clark Expo (prior to 15 Oct 1905)

Indicate Year of Residence

Residency

**Supporting Document

1. Provide documentation of residence date above 1. _____

Descendency

**Supporting Document

2. I am the son/daughter of _____ 2. _____
(Circle one)

3. Who was the son/daughter of _____ 3. _____
(Circle one)

4. Who was the son/daughter of _____ 4. _____
(Circle one)

5. Who was the son/daughter of _____ 5. _____
(Circle one)

6. Who was the son/daughter of _____ 6. _____
(Circle one)

7. Who was the son/daughter of _____ 7. _____
(Circle one)

** Please number all supporting documents that prove residency and descendency in the upper right corner, place them in numerical order, and attach them to the back of the application form. If you need to add additional generations, please use another sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper as needed. Each line requires one primary source or two secondary sources.

I hereby acknowledge that all materials submitted by me with this application to the First Families of Multnomah County Program become the property of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc. (GFO). I further authorize GFO to use the submitted materials in any future publication and as an informational resource in GFO's library.

Signature

Date