

EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.east-tennessee-history.org>

The triumphs and tragedies of past generations become real and heartfelt when you learn about an ancestor's life as an indentured servant, or feel the sorrow of a mother as her sons depart for America, or the loyalty that drove a soldier to wander a dark battlefield, lantern in hand, stepping over the dead and dying, to find his missing brother.

Thousands have been inspired to begin their own fascinating journey into the past through the First Families of Tennessee, a special heritage program of the East Tennessee Historical Society. The First Families of Tennessee was founded in 1993 to honor the state's first residents and to identify their descendants. Originally a Tennessee bicentennial project, First Families now has more than 13,000 members from across the United States and in eight foreign nations. FFT is now a permanent ETHS program.

The links and articles in this section of the ETHS web site will provide you with information on how you can [become a member](#) of First Families of Tennessee, updates on FFT-related news, and features on the [FFT book](#) and other FFT merchandise.

Study of FFT Ancestors at Ulster-American Heritage Symposium

A study based on the First Families of Tennessee was featured at a session of the Ulster-American Heritage Symposium, held June 11-15, 2002 in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Who is eligible to join?

Membership in First Families of Tennessee is open to anyone who can prove direct descent from a person living in any part of what is now Tennessee before or by the time of statehood in 1796.

Residence of the ancestor and each generation of direct descent must be proved by acceptable records. There is a one-time membership fee for each application submitted.

How do I join?

To join, applicants must complete a two-page application form and line of descent chart and submit acceptable documentation to prove an ancestor's residence and generation-by-generation descent from the ancestor. There is a one-time application fee of \$25.

FFT members will receive a handsome certificate featuring the state seal, along with the applicant's name and the name of the applicant's pioneer ancestor.

The information furnished by applicants as proof of lineage is housed in the McClung Historical Collection (Knoxville, Tennessee), a department of the Knox County Public Library. This valuable documentation of the state's early residents and their families, along with information included in the ETHS Civil War Families of Tennessee program, provides a wealth of research materials for present and future historians and genealogists.

To join FFT today, download a copy of the [application form](#) and mail it, along with your

application fee and copies of your documentation, to

First Families of Tennessee
c/o ETHS
PO Box 1629
Knoxville, TN 37901-1629

If you cannot download the application form and would like to have one mailed to you, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the address above.

For additional information or questions about FFT, e-mail firstfamily@east-tennessee-history.org

(Note: ETHS cannot process email queries or perform research assistance.)

First Families of Tennessee Book:

First Families of Tennessee: A Register of Early Settlers and Their Present-Day Descendants is a tribute to the men and women who established the great state of Tennessee. Published in 2000, the book includes the names of approximately 2,200 of the state's first residents as registered by their descendants. Find out how you can order your copy today. [Read more.](#)

First Families of Tennessee Book

First Families of Tennessee: A Register of Early Settlers and Their Present-Day Descendants is a tribute to the men and women who established the great state of Tennessee.

A valuable reference volume, featuring:

- Names of 2,200 of the state's first residents (as registered by their descendants), with birth and death dates and places, name of spouse, date and county of first settlement, and proof of residence.
- Register of FFT members
- Spouse index
- Selected photos of FFT ancestors and descendants
- History of Tennessee from earliest settlement to statehood
- Maps of Tennessee county creations, 1777 - 1796
- Listing of all Tennessee counties with creation dates and parent counties
- More than 450 pages, hardbound, with jacket

The book is a culmination of the [**First Families of Tennessee**](#) (FFT) bicentennial project started by the East Tennessee Historical Society in 1992 to recognize the state's early residents and to identify their descendants. Pride in Tennessee heritage is overwhelming. FFT members now number more than 13,000 and are in all fifty states and eight foreign

countries.

Housed in the [**McClung Historical Collection**](#) of the [**Knox County Public Library**](#), the FFT files comprise a one-of-a-kind collection of information about the state's earliest residents and are an important resource for historians and genealogists.

You may order *First Families of Tennessee: A Register of Their Present-Day Descendants* by mail (personal check or credit card) or by telephone: 865-215-8824. To order by mail, please print out a copy of our FFT [**book order form**](#)*.

Price--\$55 ea.

Quantity discount (three or more copies): \$50 ea.

Tennessee residents, add 9.25% sales tax

Shipping: \$4 for first book, \$2 for each additional

Mail book fee to

East Tennessee Historical Society
P.O. Box 1629
Knoxville, TN 37901

Or order by phone: 865-215-8824.

If you cannot download the book order form and cannot make your purchase by credit card over the phone, you may have an order form mailed to you. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the above address above.

Please go to this website: <http://www.east-tennessee-history.org>

<http://www.ajalmbert.com>

Member: Robert Gentry, Matthew Roulston, William Jared.