

The Bucks County Lineage Society

Preserving the Families and Heritage of Bucks County, Pennsylvania



Application Packet

May 2026

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Program Overview:

The Bucks County Lineage Recognition Program was created to complement statewide lineage societies by focusing specifically on the people, communities, and historical contributions that shaped Bucks County, Pennsylvania. While many lineage programs recognize residency within the Commonwealth, this program emphasizes **localized history, community involvement, and the preservation of family stories** connected to Bucks County's unique heritage.

Bucks County occupies an important place in American history, from early colonial settlement and Revolutionary War activity to industrial growth and cultural innovation. Its historic landmarks, preserved records, and longstanding traditions provide exceptional opportunities for genealogical research and historical storytelling.

Applicants who successfully document lineage within the early Bucks County periods, particularly the *Founding Lineages of Bucks (1682–1775)* category, may already meet or be well-positioned to meet eligibility requirements for broader Pennsylvania lineage recognition programs. Applicants who wish to have their documentation evaluated for broader standards may select the “Review for Keystone-Ready Distinction” option in addition to the category for which they are applying.

Participants are encouraged to continue expanding their research and documentation for potential submission to statewide and national lineage societies, further preserving the legacy of Bucks County families for future generations.

Mission Statement

The Bucks County Lineage Society is dedicated to preserving, documenting, and honoring the families, individuals, and communities that shaped the history of Bucks County, Pennsylvania through genealogical research, historical education, and heritage stewardship.

Preservation Statement

By documenting and preserving family histories, members contribute to the protection of Bucks County's historical legacy for future generations.

Instructions on How to Complete the Application

Download the application and type or print your information.

1. To complete Section 1, enter your contact information.
2. To complete Section 2, select the category under which you are applying for recognition. See the **Qualification Requirements** for each category.
3. To complete Section 3, enter the generations to the qualifying Bucks County ancestor.
4. To complete Section 4, enter the cited sources for the application. Add additional pages if necessary.

5. Attach copies of the proof documents and number them with the same number as the cited sources.
6. Upon completion of the application(s), please mail the application(s), copies of all supporting genealogy documentation papers and your check or money order in the amount of **\$25.00** made payable to and mail to:

Bucks County Lineage Society
136 DeHaven Avenue
Penndel, PA. 19047
(215) 630-5301
bcls@heritage-hunters.com

Upon receipt, your check will be deposited. Typical review time is 6–12 weeks depending on application complexity and supporting documentation. Once approved, you will receive your certificate in the mail.

Copies of submitted applications and supporting documentation may be retained in the Society archives for historical and verification purposes.

Documentation Standards

The Bucks County Lineage Society evaluates applications using the [Genealogical Proof Standard](#). Applicants must provide sufficient documentation to establish each generational link between themselves and the qualifying ancestor. The Society recognizes that historical records may be incomplete or unevenly preserved across communities and encourages applicants to submit all relevant evidence available.

- Primary vs secondary sources:
 - Primary sources are original documents created at the time of the event.
 - Secondary sources are works that interpret primary sources.
- Original vs derivative records:
 - Original records are the first records created of an event.
 - Derivative records are works that interpret original records.
- DNA policy – DNA will be accepted as evidence as supporting (not sole) documentation.
- Unsourced online trees not accepted
- Conflicting evidence policy: Applications containing conflicting evidence will be evaluated using accepted genealogical standards, with preference given to:
 - Original records created closest to the event;
 - Primary source documentation;
 - Records demonstrating consistent patterns across multiple sources; and
 - Evidence supported by reliable citations and historical context.
- Illegible documents may be rejected

- Modern records may require redaction for privacy
- Submitted documentation becomes part of the Society's archival review file and may not be returned. Applicants should submit photocopies only.

Categories and Requirements for Recognition

The Bucks County Lineage Society encourages the use of primary source documentation whenever available. Secondary sources may be accepted when supported by reliable evidence. Unsourced online family trees are not considered acceptable proof without supporting records.

1. Founding Lineages of Bucks County (1682-1775)

Qualification Requirements:

- Document direct descent from an individual residing in Bucks County prior to 1776
- Acceptable records include: land grants, warrants, tax lists, wills, or Quaker meeting records
- Must establish at least **three consecutive generations** linking applicant to the ancestor
- Strong preference for primary sources created during the colonial period

2. Bucks Patriot and Revolutionary Lineages (1776-1783)

Qualification Requirements:

- Document descent from an individual in Bucks County who:
 - Served in the military or militia, **or**
 - Provided material aid (supplies, lodging, transport) to the Revolutionary cause
- Acceptable proof includes: service records, pension files, pay vouchers, or sworn affidavits
- Must prove residence in Bucks County from 1776-1783.
- Lineage must be documented generation-by-generation with reliable sources

3. Bucks Expansion and Enterprise Lineages (1784-1860)

Qualification Requirements:

- Document descent from an ancestor living in Bucks County during the post-Revolution expansion period 1784-1860.
- Evidence may include: deeds, tax assessments, probate files, canal or mill employment records
- Must demonstrate the ancestor's role in economic or community development (farmer, artisan, merchant, etc.)
- Require at least one primary record placing the ancestor in Bucks County between 1784-1860.

4. Bucks Union and Community Lineages (1861-1899)

Qualification Requirements:

- Document descent from an individual connected to Bucks County during the Civil War or Reconstruction era between 1861-1899.

- If military: provide compiled service record, pension file, or regimental history reference
- If civilian: census, church, or local government records confirming residence
- Burial records or cemetery documentation strongly encouraged

5. Bucks Cultural Lineages (1900-1939)

Qualification Requirements:

- Document descent from an ancestor residing in Bucks County during the early 20th century 1900-1939.
- Acceptable records: census, city directories, newspapers, business or studio records
- Optional distinction: connection to arts, culture, tourism, or local industry
- Photographs, letters, or ephemera may be submitted as supporting documentation

6. Bucks Suburban Pioneer Lineages (1940-1979)

Qualification Requirements:

- Document descent from an individual who settled in Bucks County during the post-WWII suburban expansion 1940-1979.
- Acceptable records include: property deeds, school records, employment records, or directories
- Residency in developments such as Levittown is acceptable but not required
- Must show continuity of residence or community involvement

7. Heritage Steward Lineages (1980-Present)

Qualification Requirements

- Demonstrate descent from a Bucks County ancestor (any prior period) **AND**
- Provide evidence of active preservation or genealogy work, such as:
 - Membership in a historical or genealogical society
 - Documented family research, publication, or oral history project
 - May include DNA evidence as supporting (not sole) documentation
 - Submission of a compiled family history for archival purposes

8. Keystone-Ready Distinction

Awarded to applicants who:

- Meet our Bucks County requirements **AND**
- Have sufficient documentation to align with other Pennsylvania Lineage Society standards

Suggested Research Sources

- Census records
- Bucks County deeds
- Probate files
- Quaker meeting records

- Church registers
- Military pensions
- Cemetery records
- Newspapers
- Historical societies and archives

Repositories for Research

Repository holdings, hours, and access policies may change. Applicants are encouraged to visit their websites prior to conducting research.

Bucks County Genealogical & Historical Archives

Mercer Museum

84 South Pine Street, 3rd Floor Library

Doylestown, PA. 18901

<https://www.mercermuseum.org/collections/research-library/>

The Mercer Museum Library is the major research center for local and family history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region. With its roots in the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880, the Library houses over 20,000 books, periodicals and pamphlets, 2,500 feet of county archives, over 800 manuscript collections, more than 12,000 images, and maps and other records that document not only local history, but the life and work of Henry Chapman Mercer and early American technology, culture and folk art.

- Naturalization records
- Court records
- Term papers
- Historical county archives
- Early government records dating into the 1700s

Bucks County Recorder of Deeds

55 E Court Street, 6th Floor

Doylestown, PA 18901

<https://www.buckscounty.gov/414/Recorder-of-Deeds>

The Bucks County Recorder of Deeds office houses records from 1684 to the present. The office handles as many as 25 different kinds of documents in addition to deeds and mortgages. Some of them include mausoleum permits, sewer permits, cattle brands and filings under the UCC Code.

- Deeds

- Land transfers
- Property ownership records
- Grantor/grantee indexes

Bucks County Register of Wills

7321 New Falls Rd.

Levittown, PA 19055

261 California Rd.

Quakertown, PA 18951

<https://www.buckscounty.gov/615/Register-of-Wills>

The Bucks County Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court records date back to 1684. The complete set of microfilm records for these files can be found in our Archive Research Center. Also, Register of Wills original documents on-site dating from 1684 to 1936 are available for review as well as the original files for the past 5 years. All other original records are stored off-site and are available with advance request.

- Wills
- Probate files
- Estate administrations
- Orphans' Court records dating back to 1684

David Center for the American Revolution

105 South Fifth Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

<https://www.amphilsoc.org/david-center-american-revolution>

The David Library collections consist of approximately 8,000 volumes, 9,000 reels of microfilm, and the large Sol Feinstein manuscript collection. The Sol Feinstein Collection, a rich collection of letters and documents, was assembled by DLAR Founder Sol Feinstein (1888-1980) over a period of fifty years. It includes material on almost all notable Americans from before the Revolution to the 1850s, as well as prominent Europeans and documents relating to military affairs. There are substantial groups of letters from: John Adams, Henry Dearborn, Alexander Hamilton, Jedidiah Huntington, Thomas Jefferson, Lafayette, George Washington, and a long run of letters from a Massachusetts military surgeon named Samuel Adams. Many letters, though written by revolutionary figures, relate to events that occurred before or after the War.

Family History Centers Local to Bucks County

www.familysearch.org

Doylestown, PA	Morrisville, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Cherry Hill, NJ
1255 Chapman Road, Doylestown, PA. 18901	1204 Pine Grove Road, Morrisville, PA. 19067	2072 Red Lion Road, Philadelphia, PA. 19115	252 Evesham Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08067

As of March 2023, there are over 1.5 billion individuals in the tree and the global historical records database contains over 5.7 billion digital images, including digitized books, digitized microfilm, and other digital records.

Free Library of Philadelphia

1901 Vine Street

Philadelphia, PA. 19103

<https://libwww.freelibrary.org/explore/topic/genealogy>

- How-to genealogy books, especially those for beginners and those concerned with ethnic or national-group genealogy.
- Standard genealogy reference books, especially those dealing with Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley.
- Local ward and fire insurance maps, from around 1859 to the present.
- Gazetteers for all countries.
- Local directories of all kinds.
- Biographies and collective biographies.
- Lists of published genealogies.
- Local newspapers, from 1719 to the present.
- The federal census of Philadelphia 1790 - 1930, with either indexes or enumeration district descriptions.
- Government publications. The Free Library is a Government Depository Library

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

2100 Byberry Road, Suite 111

Philadelphia, PA. 19116

<https://genpa.org>

The GSP Library Catalog has over 1500 books held by the library of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Several additional family and research collections are available at the GSP Library.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

1300 Locust Street

Philadelphia, PA. 19107

<https://hsp.org>

Founded in 1824, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) is one of the nation's most significant archives of historical documents. Our mission is to preserve and provide access to our collection of over 22 million manuscripts, published works, photographs, and graphic materials spanning centuries of American history. As an active collecting institution, our holdings support research, learning, and exploration across a diverse range of topics, with strengths in Pennsylvania history, family and community history, ethnic history, science and technology, and the arts. Through research services, educational programs, public events, exhibits, publications, and fellowships, HSP invites you to connect with the past and engage with the stories that define our shared history. At HSP, we invite you to Make History Yours through the vast collections of Philadelphia's Library of American History.

Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library

680 Radcliffe Street

Bristol, PA. 19007

<https://grundylibrary.org/collections/bristol-history/>

In the local history section, you can find tools to assist with genealogical and local history research, duplicate materials from the archive, and books on Bristol and the surrounding area. These items are identified as the "Local History Collection" in the Bucks County library catalog.

National Archives at Philadelphia

14700 Townsend Road

Philadelphia, PA 19154

<https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia>

The National Archives at Philadelphia offers many records useful anyone researching their family history. Below is an overview of some of our most popular genealogy holdings, many of which have been digitized. Feel free to contact our reference staff for more information about our records, or if you have any questions.

- Naturalization Records
- Ship's Passenger Lists

- Census Records
- Military Service Records (not held in Philadelphia)

New Jersey State Archives

225 West State Street, Level 2

Trenton, NJ 08625-0307

<https://www.nj.gov/state/archives/index.html>

The State Archives is New Jersey's official research center for public records of enduring historical value. Considering that many vital records, land documents, probate records and military service papers were filed centrally by the Colony and State of New Jersey, the State Archives is a treasure trove for genealogists and historians.

The State Archives is also the official repository for microfilm of county clerks' and surrogates' records produced by the LDS Church and of film of local newspapers produced by the New Jersey Newspaper Project. Current holdings amount to over 37,000 cubic feet of paper records and over 32,000 reels of microfilm. Our records date from the founding of New Jersey as a British colony in 1664 up to the present.

New Jersey State Library

185 West State Street

Trenton, NJ 08608

<https://www.njstatelib.org>

Our collection features over 18,000 items in print and microfilm, including resources from across the United States and even some international materials. You can trace your New Jersey ancestors beyond state borders.

Pennsylvania State Archives

1681 N. Sixth Street

Harrisburg, PA 17102

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/phmc/pa-state-archives/visit-pa-state-archives/about-pa-state-archives>

The records in the Pennsylvania State Archives are used for serious purposes - to establish the state's boundaries and protect the property rights of our residents; to prove military service or document changes to our environment - but the documents belong to the people of Pennsylvania and are open to all, even to those who are just curious to see what a Civil War letter looks like.

Application Checklist

- ☐ Completed application form
- ☐ Selected recognition category
- ☐ Included source citations
- ☐ Attached supporting documents
- ☐ Numbered all evidence to match citations
- ☐ Included payment
- ☐ Signed applicant pledge

Bucks County Lineage Society

136 DeHaven Avenue

Penndel, PA. 19047

(215) 630-5301

bcls@heritage-hunters.com



Application No. _____

Certificate No. _____

The Bucks County Lineage Society

Application

Please print or type.

Application of:

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Maiden Name
Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Phone Number	Email Address		

I am claiming Bucks County Status under the following category:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | Founding Lineages of Bucks County (1682-1775) |
| ☐ | Bucks Patriot and Revolutionary Lineages (1776-1783) |
| ☐ | Bucks Expansion and Enterprise Lineages (1784-1860) |
| ☐ | Bucks Union and Community Lineages (1861-1899) |
| ☐ | Bucks Cultural Lineages (1900-1939) |
| ☐ | Bucks Suburban Pioneer Lineages (1940-1979) |
| ☐ | Heritage Steward Lineages (1980-Present) |
| ☐ | I would like my application reviewed for Keystone-Ready Distinction |

from my ancestor, _____.

1

Applicant's Full Name	Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b. _____	_____	_____	_____
m. _____	_____	_____	_____

I am the child of:

2

Father's Full Name	Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b. _____	_____	_____	_____
m. _____	_____	_____	_____
d. _____	_____	_____	_____
Mother's Full Maiden Name	Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b. _____	_____	_____	_____
d. _____	_____	_____	_____

Applicant: _____

Who is the child of:

3

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Who is the child of:

4

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Who is the child of:

5

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Applicant: _____

Who is the child of:

6

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Who is the child of:

7

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Who is the child of:

8

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Applicant: _____

Who is the child of:

9

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Who is the child of:

10

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Who is the child of:

11

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

Applicant: _____

Who is the child of:

12

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

13

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

14

	Father's Full Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
m.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

	Mother's Full Maiden Name Date	Place	Source Number(s)
b.	_____	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____	_____

I, _____, do solemnly pledge upon my honor that I will faithfully support the mission and work of the Bucks County Lineage Society; that I will preserve and promote the history, heritage, and stories of the families who shaped Bucks County, Pennsylvania; and that I will uphold the values of historical stewardship, genealogical integrity, and respect for those generations whose legacy we are proud to honor.

Applicant Signature: _____

Applicant: _____

Fully Cited Sources:

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Add additional pages if necessary.

For Internal Use Only:	
Date Received:	
Application Number:	
Reviewed By:	
☐ Approved	☐ Pending ☐ Denied
Date and Reason for Pending or Denial:	
Certificate Number:	
Certificate Issued Date:	