

TIPS FOR DOCUMENTING OCCUPATION OF HOMESTEADS IN OKLAHOMA TERRITORY

If your family filed a claim in Oklahoma Territory, documentation of the actual date the farm or ranch was occupied is easy to obtain by following these steps:

1. Complete the Federal Tract Books of Oklahoma Territory Form on the reverse of this page. Information needed to complete this form is available at the:

Oklahoma History Society Library
Oklahoma History Center
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

If you are unable to look the information up yourself, fill in the NAME OF THE ENTRYMAN (*the original family member who occupied the land*) and the LEGAL DESCRIPTION and mail the form to the Historical Society Library, and the staff will look the information up for you. If the date recorded is a minimum of 100 years ago, a copy of the appropriate page will be sufficient documentation to qualify your property for the Centennial Farm and Ranch program.

2. If the date is less than 100 years, contact the National Archives (at the address below) and request a **National Archives Order for Copies of Land Entry Files** form. Complete the form, return it to the National Archives, and they will send you a copy of the Homestead Application which will contain proof of your family's occupation of the land. The National Archives will bill you for the copying costs (*please contact National Archives for exact cost*). It takes approximately eight to ten weeks to obtain the information from the National Archives. We encourage you to contact the National Archives regardless to receive this information for your own family files.

To obtain copies of the original case files for Homestead Entry Application, please write to:

Textual Reference Branch – Land (NWDT1)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20408

For patent records, you can visit <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx> to print a copy. Please note that certified copies do require a fee but a certified copy is **not** required for this application. For patents you are unable to find online, please write:

National Archives & Records Administration
Denver Regional Branch
Building 48
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

Please send all numbers and full land description when writing to either agency.