

ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10195 - Springfield IL 62791-0195



PRAIRIE PIONEER CERTIFICATES

The Illinois State Genealogical Society will issue Prairie Pioneer Certificates to direct descendants of early settlers of Illinois. Many of these pioneers have gone unnoticed in history, so this is a way to gather information about them. The information submitted will be published in book form. Several volumes have been published to date. Each volume covers about 1,000 pioneers. Documentation submitted for these pioneers has been microfilmed and is available for research at the Illinois State Archives in Springfield, Illinois. In addition to receiving a Prairie Pioneer Certificate, applicants will be helping to preserve the history of their ancestral pioneers.

ELIGIBILITY: To qualify for a Prairie Pioneer Certificate the applicant must be directly descended from an ancestor who settled in Illinois as follows:

- * Prior to statehood (December 3, 1818): gold seal with ribbon on certificate
- * 1819 - 1850: gold seal on certificate
- * 1851 - 1880: stamped seal on certificate

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Complete and sign the ISGS Prairie Pioneer Certificate application.
2. When completing the straight-line lineage chart, please use maiden names for women. If you are unsure of any dates or information, place a question mark behind the data.
3. Documented evidence must accompany the application, such as census, birth, death, marriage, school church, bible, military, estate, or land records, obituaries (give the name and location of newspaper with publishing date, if known), tombstone inscriptions (give location of cemetery), county histories etc. Each person (including the applicant) on the straight-line chart should be proved as the child of the preceding generation. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.** Please submit **COPIES ONLY**, as all applications and verifying material will become the property of the Illinois State Genealogical Society.
4. Prepare a 3 x 5 index card for the Prairie Pioneer ancestor. Place his/her name in the upper left hand corner (please print in block letters, LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME OR INITIAL). Place your name and address on the reverse side of the card.
5. Please submit as much additional information about your ancestor as your wish.

FEE

Fee for each ancestor application submitted is \$20.00. One designated certificate is included in the application fee. Certificate will be mailed after eligibility has been determined. **Application fees will not be refunded.** The completed application, copies of documents proving direct descent of each generation on the straight-line chart, and the 3 x 5 index card should be mailed to the Society at the following address:

ISGS, Attn. Prairie Pioneer Certificate Project Chairman, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, Illinois 62791-0195.

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATES

Brothers, sisters, children, or grandchildren of the applicant who wish to **apply at the same time** as original pioneer application will need to fill out an application. Their documentation need only show direct relationship to original applicant. These additional applications include one designated certificate each. Fee for these additional certificates is only \$10.00 each.

DOCUMENTATION

1. Please submit primary (*) proof of your ancestor's residence in a particular county for a particular year. The date and county should be specified on the application.
2. Send proof of lineage **FOR EACH GENERATION** from pioneer ancestor to person whose name is to be on the certificate. This can be primary or secondary (*) proof.
3. Fill out blanks on the application, especially children of pioneer section.
4. Make sure permission release is signed and dated.
5. Enclose checks in the proper amount to cover each individual ancestor application enclosed and for each additional certificate to be issued for other family members.
6. If applications for more than one pioneer are enclosed, please send duplicate proofs for each generation in line of descent for each ancestor submitted.
7. If applying for multiple certificates on the same pioneer ancestor, be certain that proof of lineage or relationship to the original applicant is documented for each individual family member desiring a certificate.
8. Highlight key information in your proofs.
9. If you wish notification that your application has been approved, please enclose a SASE.
10. **Applicant's name should be on the back of each document submitted.**

Thank you for your interest in the project. It will be a pleasure to process your application. If the above guidelines are followed, processing will move forward more quickly, and will help eliminate the need to return applications for additional documentation. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,
ISGS Prairie Pioneer Chairperson

* **Primary Proof** is defined as a record or document created at the time of the event, or shortly thereafter, by eyewitnesses or persons directly related to the event. Records **not** meeting this criteria are secondary sources. Records that have been transcribed into printed matter or written form could contain errors and are therefore secondary sources. Examples of **acceptable photocopies** of documents submitted for earliest proven residency of IL Prairie Pioneer include, but are not limited to: *1850 - Scott County Census; 1842 - Christian County land grant from US Government; 1827 - Bond County deed for purchase of 80 acres of land; 1830 - Greene County - he signed permission for his son to get married; 1845 - Macoupin County - he appears on personal property tax list; 1810 - St. Clair County - on territorial census; 1864 - Cook County child's baptism record; 1825 - Fayette County enumerated on state census; 1848 - Washington County military muster roll; 1831 - White County marriage record; 1821 - St. Clair County - appointed Justice of Peace, recorded in county board minutes; 1856 - Jersey County, obtained mortgage for land purchase.* Any of the aforementioned documents illustrates a document that places a pioneer in an Illinois county in the year indicated. All county histories and biographies contained therein are considered secondary sources.

Examples of document photocopies submitted to prove line of descent from the pioneer for **each generation** on the straight-line chart. Each person on the chart, **including the applicant**, must be proved as the child of the preceding generation. The applicant should be the last named person on the straight-line chart. Examples: *1868 - Christian County, will of pioneer names all his surviving children; 1915 - Fayette County, obituary lists all surviving children; 1889 - Shelby County, marriage license application lists names of father and mother's maiden name for both bride and groom; death certificate showing the names and birthplaces of parents; intestate record showing all heirs; birth certificate, listing name of father, maiden name of mother; 1850 and later census listing children in parent's home. Newspaper article identifying parents; county histories listing families.*

You may have records in your possession other than these listed that will identify the parent/child relationship of those on your straight-line chart. The best documents, of course, are vital records of birth, marriage and death.

If you have a concern about releasing a copy of any of these documents, you may write "**COPY FOR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY**" in black ink across the face of the **photocopy** of your document. Please be careful not to obliterate any vital information.

ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRAIRIE PIONEER APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME OF APPLICANT (as it is to appear on the certificate)

Address: _____

Name of Pioneer: _____ Date & Location Pioneer Settled _____
In Illinois Year County

Pioneer's Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____
DAY MONTH YEAR CITY COUNTY STATE

Pioneer's Date of Death: _____ Place of Death: _____
DAY MONTH YEAR CITY COUNTY STATE

Place Buried: _____
NAME OF CEMETERY CITY COUNTY STATE

Pioneer's Father's Name: _____ Mother's Maiden Name _____

Name of Pioneer's Spouse:** _____ (**(Show maiden name if woman))

Spouse's Date & Place of Birth: _____
DAY MONTH YEAR CITY COUNTY STATE

Spouse's Date & Place of Death: _____
DAY MONTH YEAR CITY COUNTY STATE

Place Buried: _____
NAME OF CEMETERY CITY COUNTY STATE

Date & Place of Marriage: _____
DAY MONTH YEAR CITY COUNTY STATE

Children of Ancestor:
NAME YR BORN WHERE YR DIED WHERE SPOUSE YR MARRIED

Please list additional children on separate sheet

PERMISSION RELEASE

I hereby give permission to the Illinois State Genealogical Society to reproduce the material herein submitted for the Prairie Pioneer Certificate for their publication and micro filming projects.

Day, Month, Year: _____ Signature _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY STRAIGHT-LINE LINEAGE CHART
(Please Print)

Generation 1. Name of Prairie
Pioneer Ancestor: _____

Generation 2. Their Child: _____ Was my _____
Born: _____ at _____
Died: _____ at _____
Married to: _____ on _____
at _____

Generation 3. Their Child: _____ Was my _____
Born: _____ at _____
Died: _____ at _____
Married to: _____ on _____
at _____

Generation 4. Their Child: _____ Was my _____
Born: _____ at _____
Died: _____ at _____
Married to: _____ on _____
at _____

Generation 5. Their Child: _____ Was my _____
Born: _____ at _____
Died: _____ at _____
Married to: _____ on _____
at _____

Generation 6. Their Child: _____ Was my _____
Born: _____ at _____
Died: _____ at _____
Married to: _____ on _____
at _____

Name of Applicant: _____