



Iowa Genealogical Society

628 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1924
(515) 276-0287

Application for Pioneer, Century or Statehood Certificate

The Iowa Genealogical Society issues certificates to persons who are directly descended from Iowa Pioneers. Applicants must prove direct descent and prove that the ancestor settled in Iowa:

- By 1846, to receive a **Statehood Certificate**;
- By 1856, to receive a **Pioneer Certificate**;
- More than 100 years prior to the date of application, for a **Century Certificate**.

Applicants may apply for certificates to be issued to themselves or to other persons. The person to whom the certificate is issued need not currently live in Iowa.

The purpose of the Certificate Program is to recognize families with Iowa roots, encourage people to undertake genealogical research, and to provide genealogical resources for researchers in our library.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **A separate application is required for each certificate requested.** The name of only one ancestor can be identified on a certificate. Type or print all entries. Legibility is important.
2. **A complete application consists of the following:**
 - a. An application form. Only the current version of the form provided by IGS will be accepted. Please note that the final section of the form calls for a listing of the known children of the ancestor, not the applicant or certificate.
 - b. A pedigree chart showing the ancestral line(s) of the person to whom the certificate is to be issued. The chart must begin with the person to whom the certificate is to be issued and extend through to the ancestor. The chart must show the dates and places of birth, death and marriage to the best of the applicant's ability to provide them. An IGS chart is provided with the application form; however, any standard pedigree chart form (including computer-generated charts) is generally acceptable, provided it is on 8 ½ x 11 – inch paper. Continuation sheets may be used.
 - c. A check, payable to the Iowa Genealogical Society, for \$10 for each certificate requested.
 - d. Copies of your documentation.

3. If more than one certificate based on the same ancestor is requested, proof of the ancestor's settlement in Iowa is required for only the first such application. The remaining applications should be cross-referenced to it. Application form, pedigree chart and proof of descent are still required for each person for whom a certificate is requested.
4. **Names and Dates:**
 - a. Enter the name of the person to whom the certificate is to be issued and the name of the ancestor exactly as you want them to appear on the certificate.
 - b. Enter women's surnames in the order in which acquired (e.g., Mary, the daughter of John Jones, who married first Sam Brown and second Amos Black would be entered as Mary Jones Brown Black). Do not use parentheses.
 - c. Enter dates in day, month, year format, using three-letter abbreviations for the month (e.g., 12 Feb 1805).
5. **Forms of proof:**

Because these records are used as a genealogical resource by other researchers, all proof of descent needs to be extracted from a primary source, such as an original document that was created at the time of the event (i.e., marriage, census, etc.). County histories are not acceptable as proof. In addition, published or unpublished genealogies, family histories and family group sheets are also not acceptable as proof. Instead, submit the documents (or extracts there from) that were used as proof for them.

 - a. Census records: copy of the record with year, volume and page number.
 - b. Land records: copy of the land deed.
 - c. Marriage records: copy of the record.
 - d. Will or probate records: copy of the record.

Documents that infer rather than establish the fact being claimed require corroboration.

6. **Send the completed application, pedigree chart, proof of descent and proper payment to:**

Certificate Program
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