

Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society Pioneer Certificate Project

To honor the first families of Tazewell County, the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society is compiling a roster of settlers who were residents here by 1875. Our Society will issue certificates to direct descendants of early settlers of Tazewell County. The application, with the completed lineage chart and documentation, will be kept in the library. Eventually, the information will be published in book form.

A numbered parchment certificate, suitable for framing, with the name of the ancestor and descendant will be issued. In addition to receiving the Pioneer Certificate, applicants will be helping to preserve the history of their ancestral pioneers.

Eligibility

To qualify for a Pioneer Certificate, applicant must be directly descended from an ancestor who settled in Tazewell County as follows:

- Pioneer Certificate (prior to county formation in 1827) – gold seal with purple ribbon
- Old Settler Certificate (1827–1850) – gold seal
- Early Family Certificate (1851– 1875) – silver seal

Anyone may apply. Applicants need not be residents of Tazewell County, nor ever lived in the county. After proof of direct descent has been submitted and eligibility has been determined, we will then mail a certificate. Separate certificates will be issued for each ancestor properly submitted.

Instructions

1. Please complete the application to the best of your ability.
2. Please use maiden names when applicable. If you are unsure of any dates or information, place a question mark behind the data.
3. **Documented evidence connecting each generation must accompany the application** such as census records; birth, death, and marriage records; school or church records; Bible records; military records; obituaries; estates records; land records; tombstone inscriptions (give location of cemetery); county histories; etc. **Do not send original documents.** Please **submit copies only**, as all applications or verifying material will become the property of the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society.
4. Please submit as much additional information about your ancestor as you wish. You may submit additional pages as needed.
5. A check made payable to the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society in the amount of \$10.00 for each certificate, plus the application, the straight line lineage chart, and your sources of proof should be mailed to: Pioneer Certificate Coordinator, Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society, P.O. Box 312, Pekin, IL, 61555-0312.

When requesting additional certificates for members of the applicant's immediate family (mother, father, siblings), proof of descent needs to be sent only once. To request additional certificates, send \$10.00 and a separate completed application and straight-line lineage chart for each additional certificate needed.

For further information or assistance, call (309) 477-3044 or email tcghs@tcghs.org

Revised July 2013 (Website)

Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society
Prairie Pioneer Certificate Application
(Please Print)

Name of Applicant _____
As It Is To Appear On The Certificate

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Name of Tazewell County Pioneer _____

Date & Location Pioneer Settled in Tazewell County _____

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year) _____

Place of Birth (City/County/State/Country) _____

Date of Death (Day/Month/Year) _____

Place of Death (City/County/State/Country) _____

Place buried (Name of Cemetery & Location) _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Name _____

Name of Pioneer's Spouse (include maiden name) _____

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year) _____

Place of Birth (City/County/State/Country) _____

Date of Death (Day/Month/Year) _____

Place of Death (City/County/State/Country) _____

Place buried (Name of Cemetery & Location) _____

Date of Marriage (Day/Month/Year) _____

Place of Marriage (City/County/State/Country) _____

Children of Pioneer (attach additional sheets if necessary)

First Name	Date of Birth	Location	Date of Death	Location	Spouse	Date Married

I hereby give permission to Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society to use the material submitted for the Pioneer Certificate for their future publications.

Signature _____ Date _____

Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society
Prairie Pioneer Straight-Line Lineage Chart
(Please Print)

Generation 1

Name of 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 _____

Generation 7

Their child: _____ was my _____

Born _____ at _____

Died _____ at _____

Married to _____ on _____

At _____