Iowa Genealogical Society
628 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 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) is generally acceptable, provided it is on 8 *Yi* x 11 – inch paper. Continuation sheets may be used.

   c. A check, payable to the Iowa Genealogical Society, for $20 for each certificate requested.

   d. Copies of your documentation must include proof of settlement in Iowa and proof of descent for each generation.

3. Ifmore 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 tbe ancestor exactly as you want them to appear on the certificate.

   b. 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).
   Not acceptable as proof: published or unpublished genealogies, family histories and family group sheet. Instead, submit the documents (or extracts) that were used as proof for them.

6. **Forms of proof:**
   a. Vital records: copies of birth, marriage or death records.

   b. Census records: copy of the census page that show state, county, township/city information and show relationship (1880 and later censuses).

   c. County history: include title and date of the publication.

   d. Obituary: include the name and date of the newspaper

   e. Will or probate record: only need submit the page with date of death and/or names of heirs.

   f. Cemetery record: include name and location of the cemetery. Information from www.findagrave .com must include a photo of the gravestone

   g. Family Bibles: Include the date of the Bible from the inside cover

   h. Land Patents are not proof of residency in Iowa unless stated.

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

   Do not send birth records (certificates) for living descendants.

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

Certificate Program
Iowa Genealogical Society
628 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50309-1924

APPLICATION FOR PIONEER, CENTURY OR STATEHOOD CERTIFICATE

Please check one:

❒ **Statehood Certificate** (*Settled in or before 1846*)
❒ **Pioneer Certificate** (*Settled in or before 1856*)
❒ **Century Certificate** (*Settled at least 100 years prior to date of this application*)

NAME OF APPLICANT (*as it is to appear on the Certificate*) _____
Address, City, State, Zip _____

YEAR PIONEER SETTLED IN IOWA _____ **SOURCES OF PROOF** _____

IOWA PIONEER ANCESTOR (*as it is to appear on the Certificate*) _____
Date Born _____ Where _____
Date Died _____ Place of Death _____
Name of Pioneer's Father _____ Name of Pioneer's Mother _____
County Where Ancestor First Settled _____
Pioneer's Date of Marriage _____ Place _____

NAME OF PIONEER'S SPOUSE _____
Spouse Date of Birth _____ Where _____
Spouse Date Died _____ Place of Death _____
Name of Spouse's Father _____ Name of Spouse's Mother _____

PIONEER'S CHILDREN

Name	Born / Place	Died / Place	Married / Place	Spouse's Name
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2				
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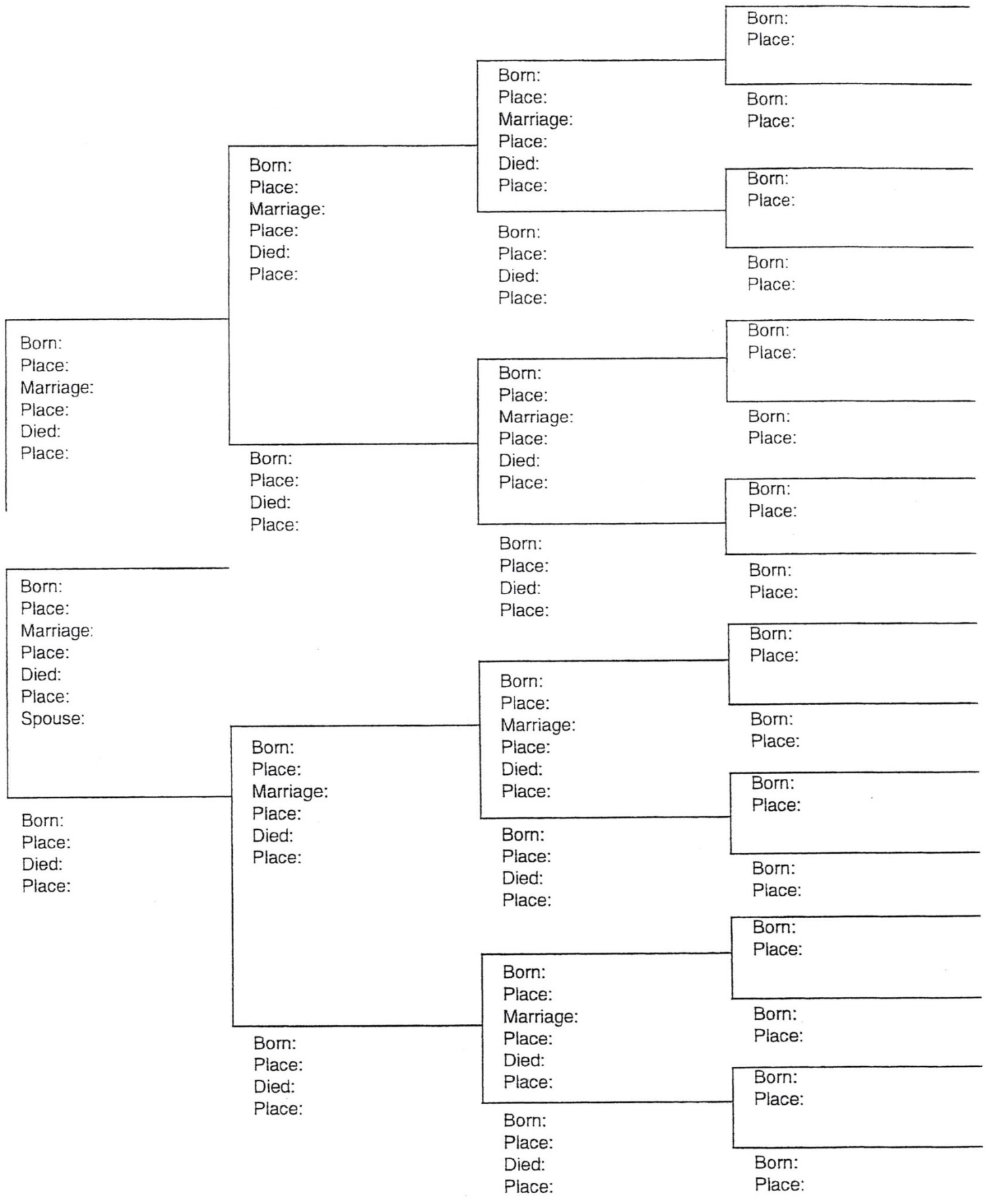
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