

Vermilion County, Illinois' Pioneer Recognition Project

In Collaboration With the County's 200th Anniversary

In honor of Vermilion County, Illinois' Bicentennial Celebration in 2026, the Illiana Genealogical and Historical Society and the Vermilion County 200th Anniversary Committee are sponsoring a Pioneer Recognition Project.

IGHS will issue Pioneer Certificates to direct descendants of early pioneers who settled in Vermilion County by 1876. The certificates will be 8-1/2" by 11", printed on heavy parchment, and will depict various historical sites in Vermilion County.

The certificates will be given in three categories: **Trailblazers—Before 1826, Early Pioneers—1826 to 1850, and Old Settlers—1851 to 1876.** The cost for each certificate is \$10.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must be a direct descendent of an ancestor who settled in Vermilion County by 1876. Applicants do not have to live in Vermilion County or be an IGHS member.

A separate application must be submitted for each pioneer for which a certificate is desired. However, a pioneer's spouse may be listed on the same certificate.

Documentary proof must show the date that your pioneer ancestor resided in Vermilion County. A copy of one of the following



items of acceptable evidence must be submitted with the application: Birth, Marriage or Death Certificate, Tombstone Inscription, School or Church Record, Dated Newspaper Article, Undertaker's Record, Probate, Will or Administration File, Land Record, Census Record, City or County Directory, Military Record.

**Please note that county history books are NOT considered primary sources and, therefore, will not be accepted as evidence of residency.*

Do not send original documents. Please submit legible copies. Eligibility will be determined by a committee. As soon as one application has been approved, a certificate will be mailed to the applicant. One's application and documentary proof will become the property of IGHS and will be kept on file at its library in Danville for researchers to use and may be used in their publications or on their website.

NOTE: *one does not need to submit evidence for the line of descendency – just evidence that your ancestor resided in Vermilion County by what year.*

Application on following pages →

Application for Vermilion County Pioneer Certificate

Complete one application and the \$10.00 fee made out to IGHS for each certificate desired.
Please type or print clearly. Write dates as day/month/year (Example: 20 Aug 1854).

Applicant's Name: _____

(As it is to appear on the certificate)

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Name of Pioneer Ancestor: _____

Earliest Year lived in Vermilion County: _____

****Attach the proof document(s) showing date of Vermilion County residency by 1876 or earlier.**

- Birth, Marriage, or Death Certificate
- Tombstone Inscription
- School or Church Record
- Dated Newspaper Article
- Undertaker's Record
- Probate, Will, or Administration File
- Land Record
- Census Record
- City or County Directory
- Military Record

Town/Township your ancestor lived in: _____

Birth Date and Place: _____

Marriage Date and Place: _____

Death Date and Place: _____

Pioneer's Spouse: _____

(Use maiden name for women)

Birth Date and Place: _____

Death Date and Place: _____

***Check if you want names of husband and wife to be on the same certificate:** _____

continued →

Pioneer Certificate Lineage Chart

Generation 1: Applicant: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Spouse's name: _____
Marriage date and place: _____

Generation 2. Applicant is the child of:

Father: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Marriage date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Mother: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Generation 3. _____ is the child of:

Father: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Marriage date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Mother: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Generation 4. _____ is the child of:

Father: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Marriage date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Mother: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Generation 5. _____ is the child of:

Father: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Marriage date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Mother: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Generation 6. _____ is the child of:

Father: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Marriage date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Mother: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Generation 7. _____ is the child of:

Father: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Marriage date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Mother: _____
Birth date and place: _____
Death date and place: _____

Attach additional sheets, if needed.

DELIVER OR MAIL APPLICATION AND \$10.00 CHECK MADE OUT TO IGHS TO:

IGHS, Pioneer Certificate Committee, 215 W. North St., Danville, IL 61832.

For more information, call 217-431-TREE (8733) or email: IGHS.research@outlook.com