



Jesse White • Secretary of State and State Archivist  
ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

## *Illinois State Genealogical Society Prairie Pioneer Certificates*

Genealogical Research Series Pamphlet No. 9

**T**he Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) issues Prairie Pioneer Certificates to applying direct descendants of pioneers who settled in Illinois prior to 1881. The three categories of commemorative certificates are: 1) 1818 and earlier, 2) 1819-1850, and 3) 1851-1880. To date, the ISGS has published two volumes, which provide information from certificate applications approved through 1987 in this ongoing project.

### RECORD CONTENTS

Prairie Pioneer Certificate applications include a straight-line lineage chart of six generations summarizing the direct line of the applicant to the pioneer. The birth, marriage, death dates and places, and spouse's name are provided for each ancestor in the line, as well as the applicant's name, address and telephone number. Supporting documentation for the certificate may be accessed from a collateral file. Included in this file are copies of Bible, church, birth, death, marriage, probate, deed, census and military records, as well as copies of newspaper obituaries and tombstone inscriptions.

### FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS

#### **RESEARCHING ON YOUR OWN**

The first two volumes of *Prairie Pioneers of Illinois* allow the researcher to review the basic information submitted by applicants for the first 2,000 certificates. These indexed volumes can be consulted at the State Archives, Margaret Cross Norton Building, in the reference room. The collateral files containing applications and supporting documentation are available upon request for examination and photocopying by contacting the ISGS. There is a fee.

#### **MAIL, TELEPHONE AND INTERNET REQUESTS**

Archives reference staff will search the indexes to Prairie Pioneer Certificates. The genealogist should provide the complete name, approximate time period and county of residence, if known, for each pioneer sought. If found, the researcher will receive photocopies from the published volumes. Photocopies are available for 50 cents per page. The Illinois State Archives is required by law (15 ILCS 305/5.5) to receive from all out-of-state or non-Illinois residents a \$10 fee, prepaid and non-refundable, along with all research requests before those requests can be honored. Due to limitations on staff research time, the Archives can conduct no more than two name searches per request.

If photocopies of supporting documentation are requested, the genealogist must contact ISGS.

Send inquiries to:

#### **Illinois State Archives**

Margaret Cross Norton Building  
Reference Unit  
Springfield, IL 62756  
Telephone: 217-524-6700  
Fax: 217-524-3930  
e-mail: jreinhardt@ilsos.net

#### **Illinois State Genealogical Society**

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Springfield, IL 62791

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