

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING SOUTH DAKOTA PIONEER, EARLY
SETTLER OR CENTURY FAMILY APPLICATION

7/15/2022

The MITCHELL AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY proudly announces issuance of **SOUTH DAKOTA PIONEER, EARLY SETTLER AND CENTURY FAMILY CERTIFICATES** to any person showing direct descent from any person living in SOUTH DAKOTA at least 100 years ago. The beautiful certificates are 8 ½ x 11 inches and suitable for framing. **What an asset to anyone's family records!**

ELIGIBILITY: To obtain a one of the three types of SOUTH DAKOTA PIONEER CERTIFICATES, the applicant must descend directly from an ancestor who settled or was born in SOUTH DAKOTA at least 100 years ago. The applicant must be able to prove their ancestor resided in South Dakota by providing a copy of an official dated record or acceptable source of proof. The applicant need not presently live in South Dakota. The types of certificates are: **1) Pioneer** (ancestor lived in Dakota Territory before November 2, 1889) **2) Early Settler** (ancestor lived in South Dakota on or before November 2, 1909) **3) Century Family** (ancestor lived in South Dakota at least 100 years ago)

STEP 1: Please complete the attached application form to the best of your ability and **sign the bottom of page two**. If you have more than one SOUTH DAKOTA PIONEER ANCESTOR and desire a certificate for each, a separate application must be filled out for each certificate desired. You may have a husband and wife (ancestors) on a certificate together – please ask. The charge for each certificate is \$25.00. If more than one certificate based on the same ancestor or ancestral couple is requested, proof of settlement in South Dakota is required for only the first such application. Others should be cross-referenced to the original. All should have a signed application form.

****DISCOUNT!**** Include a good-quality photograph of your ancestor¹ with the application and pay only \$20.00 for the certificate! We are working to build the files of our early SOUTH DAKOTA PIONEERS and, with that in mind, hope you will furnish as much information as possible.

STEP 2: Attach a pedigree chart proving your descent from the ancestor. If you do not have a completed pedigree chart, please fill in the “blank” pedigree chart included for your convenience (last page of the application). The numbering system is quite simple:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Applicant | 6. Father of number 3 | 11. Mother of number 5 |
| 2. Applicant's Father | 7. Mother of number 3 | 12. Father of number 6 |
| 3. Applicant's Mother | 8. Father of number 4 | 13. Mother of number 6 |
| 4. Father of number 2 | 9. Mother of number 4 | 14. Father of number 7 |
| 5. Mother of number 2 | 10. Father of number 5 | 15. Mother of number 7 |

STEP 3: Choose **one or more** of the following sources of proof that your PIONEER ANCESTOR was in SOUTH DAKOTA for the specified time according the type of certificate for which you are applying - at least 100 years ago. You will need to make copies that clearly identify the nature of the sources with dates, volume, page and line numbers to show your proof. **DO NOT SEND YOUR ORIGINAL RECORDS**. Acceptable sources include:²

- *Census Records, Federal and/or State or Territory: We need a copy showing the year, volume and page number.
- *Naturalization and Declarations of Intent copies must clearly identify the nature of the document and the agency or office.
- *County Histories: Include page (s) of information, list publication with a copy of the title page, date and page number.
- *Land Records: We must have a copy of land deed. An official plat (map) may be used with date, county and identification of the land owned by the ancestor.
- *School Records: We need a copy of certification or abstract from an official school record.
- *Church or Bible Records: We need a copy of certification or abstract from an official church record and/or pages from Bible.
- *Marriage Records: We must have a copy.
- *Birth Certificate: Please send a copy.
- *Death Certificate or Obituary: Please send a copy with publication's name and date for obituaries.

STEP 4: Make a copy of your application for your records. Mail application and all the materials needed to prove the application to:

MITCHELL AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
119 W 3rd Avenue
MITCHELL, SD 57301

Include a check for payment of the \$25.00 certificate fee payable to Mitchell Area Genealogical Society, or “MAGS”, for each certificate desired (only \$20.00 if you include your ancestor's photograph!).

The certificate will be mailed as soon as ready, usually 3 to 4 weeks after we receive the application. We thank you for helping us obtain information about our SOUTH DAKOTA PIONEER ANCESTORS and the many descendants they produced. The SOUTH DAKOTA ANCESTRAL PIONEER file will become one of our society's most prized possessions in the years to come. Be proud to say you have contributed to it and will leave to all future genealogists some vital family history of your SOUTH DAKOTA PIONEER. Thank you!

¹ If the photograph includes additional persons along with your ancestor, please do your best to list the identity of each individual.

² Other sources will be considered following review by our researchers on a case-by-case basis.

**SOUTH DAKOTA PIONEER, EARLY SETTLER OR CENTURY FAMILY CERTIFICATE
APPLICATION**

Please type or print clearly.

Revised - 7/15/2022

I am applying for the following certificate:

- Pioneer** (ancestor lived in Dakota Territory before November 2, 1889)
- Early Settler** (ancestor lived in South Dakota on or before Nov 2, 1909)
- Century Family** (ancestor lived in South Dakota at least 100 years ago)

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____ TEL # (____) _____
(As it is to appear on the certificate) Mail my certificate - or - Call me when my certificate is ready for pick-up (choose one)

ADDRESS: _____

NAME OF SOUTH DAKOTA ANCESTOR: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

DATE OF DEATH: _____ PLACE OF DEATH: _____

BURIAL SITE (Cemetery, Location): _____

FATHER OF ANCESTRAL PIONEER: _____

MOTHER OF ANCESTRAL PIONEER: _____

NAME OF SPOUSE OF THE ANCESTOR (if more than one spouse, please list the information for the spouse that is unrelated to the applicant on a separate sheet with their children included): _____

DATE OF MARRIAGE: _____ PLACE OF MARRIAGE: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

DATE OF DEATH: _____ PLACE OF DEATH: _____

BURIAL SITE (Cemetery, Location): _____

FATHER OF SPOUSE: _____

MOTHER OF SPOUSE: _____

PLACE IN SOUTH DAKOTA WHERE ANCESTOR SETTLED: _____

DATE ANCESTOR SETTLED [or BORN] IN SOUTH DAKOTA: _____

Additional Comments:

CHILDREN OF SOUTH DAKOTA ANCESTRAL PIONEER:							
	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DOD</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE MARRIED</u>	<u>SPOUSE</u>
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							

Please list any additional children on a separate sheet. If you have any additional information about your ancestor (military service, occupation, other spouses, etc.) that you would like to include with your pioneer/ancestor information, please include it with this application form and your acceptable source(s) of proof. Please fill in this form as completely as possible, as well as, the Pedigree Chart on the next page (or attach your own pedigree chart). No. 1 should be the name of the person applying for the certificate. Omitted information will only delay the processing and verification of your application. Please fill out a signed application for **each** pioneer ancestor for whom you desire a certificate. For **each** certificate, send the completed signed application, the acceptable source(s) of proof, and the completed pedigree chart, along with your check in the amount of \$25.00 [or \$20] for each certificate, to the address above.

Mandatory - YOUR SOURCE(S) OF PROOF:

OFFICE USE ONLY: Date Received: _____ Date Issued: _____
 List (both new and existing) certificate number(s) this pioneer: _____

Mandatory - I understand that the submission of this application grants MAGS permission to publish genealogical data contained herein in a printed or online index, and to release copies of the application and materials to genealogical researchers.

Applicant's Signature _____

Pedigree Chart

Chart # _____

Mitchell Area Genealogical Society
119 W 3rd Avenue, Mitchell, SD 57301

Entry # _____ on chart is same Entry
As # _____ on chart # _____

Researcher _____

Date _____



