

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society
Macomb County, Michigan
Ancestral Certificate Program

Eligibility:

To qualify for an Ancestral Certificate, an applicant must be directly descended from an ancestor who settled in the Richmond, Michigan area as follows:

- Trailblazer Prior to Michigan Statehood (31 December 1837)
- Pioneer 1838 – 1870
- Settler 1871 – 1904
- Builder 1904 – 1937

Each ancestor in the direct line must be proved. Anyone may apply. Applicants need not have ever been residents of any of the townships surrounding Richmond, Michigan. After proof of direct descent has been submitted and eligibility has been determined, we will mail the appropriate certificate. Separate certificates will be issued for each ancestor properly submitted. The fee for each initial certificate is \$10.

Purpose:

The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society is promoting an Ancestral Certificate Program. The threefold objectives are as follows:

- 1) to recognize pioneers and early residents who came into our region and helped write its history.
2. to encourage basic knowledge of genealogical research. We will provide easy instructions and help in researching early area residents. We will not, however, do the research for you.
3. to provide a resource for future generations who seek to find their ancestors who settled our portion of this great land.

Linking oneself to the past is an excellent way of building family pride and self-esteem. We hope you will join in our effort to record and preserve our early Richmond, Michigan area history.

The entire contents of this package may be freely copied if you wish to give a copy to another researcher, or use it for yourself for multiple ancestors. If you picked up this packet in hardcopy, additional copies may be downloaded from our website at www.geocities.com/raghs48062/

The completed application form along with supporting documents should be mailed to:
Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 68
Richmond, Michigan 48062

Pedigree and Family Group Sheets may also be submitted to the society for use by other researchers.

All material submitted will become the property of the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society and may be used in future publications by the Society – both printed and electronic. This does not prohibit you from publishing your own data if you should desire.

Ancestral Certificate Instruction Sheet
Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society

1. Please complete all parts of the application using **black ink** or **type**.
2. Please use **maiden names** where applicable and all given names of ancestors.
3. Dates should be written as day month year (example: 1 Jan 2007)
4. If unsure of a date, place a “?” behind that date.
5. Follow one direct line from the applicant to the ancestor.
6. Documented evidence connecting each generation must accompany the application. **Copies only**, please, as all items will become the property of RHS.
7. Incorrect or incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for additions or corrections twice only. If resubmitted for a fourth time, an additional charge of \$10 will be incurred.

Each application packet will include a completed RHS Ancestral Certificate form, a four generation pedigree form, and the appropriate documentation. Send a check payable to RHS for \$10 for each application submitted (see additional certificates). This is a nonrefundable fee.

Acceptable Documentation:

Descent should be proven by primary sources. In the few cases where this is not possible, secondary sources may be accepted.

Primary Sources:

Vital records (birth, death, or marriage)
Church, mortuary, cemetery records
Probate records
Land records
Tax records
Census records
Military records
Court reports (wills, deeds)
Official school records

Secondary Sources (Inclusion of the following Secondary Sources is encouraged but may not be acceptable as proof of lineage):

Bible records – Obituaries - Diaries
Journals - Private Papers - Reminiscences
Newspaper clippings
Tombstone inscriptions
Published family or county histories
Published biographical records
City or county directories
Atlases or plat books
Unofficial school records

All proof documents, where possible, should show a complete source such as author, title, year of publication, page number, volume number, type of document, and or location of original document ... (example: for marriage Vol. II, p 200 #301 Macomb County, MI). A committee of RHS members shall determine certificate eligibility. The committee decision shall be final.

Additional certificates for other family members

If brothers or sisters of the applicant wish a certificate and apply in the same packet, the cost will be \$5 for each additional certificate. Each must be on a separate sheet and prove relationship only to the applicant. If the applicant wishes to provide certificates to children or grandchildren, the same situation occurs. Each must be on a separate sheet and with appropriate proof of relationship to the applicant. The cost is \$5 for each additional certificate. All must be sent in together, paid in full.

Additional ancestors

An entirely new application packet must be completed and would cost \$10 for the first certificate and \$5 for each additional certificate (see above).

Note: Materials in this packet **MAY** be copied if you are applying for more than one ancestor.

APPLICATION FORM FOR RAHGS ANCESTRAL CERTIFICATE

In order to determine eligibility for receiving a certificate, both the residence of the Ancestor in the Richmond, Michigan, area as well as the descent to the applicant must be documented. Fill in the following form to the best of your ability and provide the necessary proof.

- Instructions:
1. Start with yourself (applicant) as the first generation.
 2. The last generation will be the Pioneer ancestor and spouse.
 3. Fill in City, County, State for all place names.
 4. Use Maiden names only for all women.
 5. Use the following form for dates: Day/ Month/ Year, such as 12 January 1874.

Pioneer Ancestor: _____

Date and Place of Pioneer settlement in the area of Richmond, Michigan: _____

Proof of above: _____

Applying for: **Trailblazer Certificate (before 31 Dec 1837)** **Pioneer Certificate (1838-1870)**
 Settler Certificate (1871-1904) **Builder Certificate (1903-1937)**

Applicant name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ **Phone:** _____

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1.) I, _____ **was born on (date)** _____

City, County, State: _____

Proof of above: _____

2.) **Child of:** _____ **Spouse:** _____

Birth date/place: _____ **Birth date/place:** _____

Marriage date: _____ **Place of marriage:** _____

Death date/place: _____ **Death date/place:** _____

Proof of above: _____

3.) **Child of:** _____ **Spouse:** _____

Birth date/place: _____ **Birth date/place:** _____

Marriage date: _____ **Place of marriage:** _____

Death date/place: _____ **Death date/place:** _____

Proof of above: _____

4.) Child of: _____ Spouse: _____

Birth date/place: _____ Birth date/place: _____

Marriage date: _____ Place of marriage: _____

Death date/place: _____ Death date/place: _____

Proof of above: _____

5.) Child of: _____ Spouse: _____

Birth date/place: _____ Birth date/place: _____

Marriage date: _____ Place of marriage: _____

Death date/place: _____ Death date/place: _____

Proof of above: _____

6.) Child of: _____ Spouse: _____

Birth date/place: _____ Birth date/place: _____

Marriage date: _____ Place of marriage: _____

Death date/place: _____ Death date/place: _____

Proof of above: _____

7.) Child of: _____ Spouse: _____

Birth date/place: _____ Birth date/place: _____

Marriage date: _____ Place of marriage: _____

Death date/place: _____ Death date/place: _____

Proof of above: _____

If you need more generations to complete your descent, please attach another sheet of paper. In addition, you are invited to submit further information about your pioneer family including Family Record Sheets and Pedigree charts. All material submitted will become the property of the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society and may be used in future publications. This does not prohibit you from publishing your own data if you should desire.

Please read and sign below:

I affirm that the statements in this document are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: _____ Date of signature: _____