

Waupaca County Pioneer Certificate Guidelines

Note: Submitting for a Pioneer Certificate for Waupaca County is NOT associated with the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Pioneer/Century Program.

To participate, you must prove your ancestor's residence in Waupaca County by January 1, 1870. To do this, you are required to provide a pedigree/ancestor chart and family group sheet with photo copies of the original records as proof (transcriptions of the record along with the location of the record are acceptable).

By submitting a Waupaca County Pioneer Family you are:

1. Donating your research to the non-profit Waupaca Area Genealogical Society (WAGS)
2. Granting WAGS the use of this information for purposes of archiving, compiling, indexing, reproducing and publishing in order to assist others with their family research
3. Allowing WAGS to provide your contact information to those who read your pioneer submission so they may contact you (you decide whether to respond to any inquiry)
4. Agreeing not to submit information that is subject to copyright infringement or invades the privacy of others. WAGS reserves the right to exclude any information which it feels violates these terms, and waiving any claim for compensation, monetary or otherwise, which the non-profit WAGS may derive from your submission of pioneer information.

You can download the application form on-line at <http://www.wigenweb.org/waupaca/WAGS/WAGSPioneer.htm> or send a request along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

WAGS – Pioneer Certificate
PO Box 42
King, WI 54946-0042

Who Qualifies for a Pioneer Certificate?

A qualified pioneer ancestor is a person who can be proven to have resided in any part of Waupaca County, the present day state of Wisconsin, before 1 January 1870 but does not have to have been born or died here.

A qualified applicant must be a direct descendant of a qualified pioneer ancestor (male or female). Applicant does not have to reside in Waupaca County nor have ever lived in the state of Wisconsin, but must show prove of his/her direct line from the pioneer ancestor with documentation for each generation. Applicant does not have to be a member of the Waupaca Area Genealogical Society.

Filing out the application form

When you apply, please type or print clearly. Application must be legible. Only the form provided by WAGS will be accepted.

Enter names of the person to whom the certificate is to be issued and ancestor's name **EXACTLY** as you want them to appear on the certificate.

Enter dates in day, month, and year format. Do not use numerals for the month, use three-letter abbreviations and use four digits for the year. (Example: 3 Nov. 1862)

When using a *primary source* you need one document to prove the event; when using a *secondary source*, you need two documents to prove the event. (A primary source is a document created at the time

of the event; birth, marriage, and death records. A secondary source is a record created after the event: census, county histories, plat maps, etc.)

Any record copied and properly cited which establishes residency before 1 January 1870 may be used.

A separate application is required for each pioneer unless the person is the spouse.

Each application form must have a pedigree/ancestor chart attached to it. The starting individual (No. 1) for the pedigree chart must be the person to whom the certificate is to be issued as identified on the application form. The chart should extend at least through the generation that includes the pioneer ancestor (as identified on the application form) from whom descent is claimed. Make chart as complete as possible. Use continuation sheets if necessary.

The following list includes some of the types of sources that can be used:

- A federal or state census of Waupaca County showing your ancestor
- School records, school census, or report card
- Donation land claim or land ownership, plat maps, deeds
- Naturalization record or Declaration of Intent, if filed in Waupaca County
- Church membership, baptism, or confirmation
- Marriage license or certificate showing a Waupaca County location
- Bible record showing Waupaca County birth, marriage, or death
- Newspaper obituary or article showing Waupaca County residence with name and date of paper.
- Will, estate, or probate records
- County history or biographies and published transcriptions of records must include copies of page(s) establishing the fact claimed and a copy of the title page including publisher and date
- Picture of inscription on gravestone along with the township and cemetery in which located
- Other proof: letters, diary entries, Civil War enlistment, or similar records; photocopies of diaries, letters, business, and other personal records may be submitted but proof of authenticity must accompany them and name and address of their current custodian must be stated.
- You may transcribe birth-marriage-death records if you include all information on the record with courthouse, address, office, volume, page, and number of the document
- **DO NOT** submit original records, as they will not be returned

Cost per certificate suitable for framing is \$7.00 for WAGS members and \$10 for non-members. If an application is not approved, the fee will be returned.

Your signature acknowledging these terms on the submission form is required to participate in this project. Unsigned applications will be returned. Pioneer names with your contact information will be listed on our website and may be included in a printed index.

Send application, ancestor/pedigree chart, family group sheets, documentation, and check or money order payable to WAGS to:

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PO Box 42
King, WI 54946-0042