

# Texas State Genealogical Society

Certificate      ☐      Texas First Families

Application for:    ☐      Gone to Texas Pioneer

☐      West Texas Pioneer

☐      Greer County Pioneer

☐      Descendants of Texas Rangers

Mark with an X the name of the certificate you are applying for in the blank to the left. Fill in all blanks below. Begin with the applicant as number 1 in the line of descent. A check or money order for \$30.00 must accompany each application and is non-refundable. See the instructions and Frequently Asked Questions at the end of the form for additional information on requirements.

THIS BOX FOR TSGS USE ONLY				
File no.:	Postmark Date:	Receive Date:	Check/MO #:	Completed Date:
Certificate No.:	Approver name and comments:			

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Name to Appear on Certificate

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitter Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitter signature indicates the information included in this application is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge.  
Any information or evidence submitted to receive a certificate becomes the property of Texas State Genealogical Society.

Name of qualifying ancestor or collateral relative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		
m.		
married to		
b.		
d.		

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Documents proving person's qualifications for the certificate:

Short biography of qualifying ancestor or person:

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Line of Descent Chart with List of Proof Documents

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1 Applicant Name:

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Date

Place

Sources documents proving these facts

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b.

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m.

---

married to

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Date

Place

Sources documents proving these facts

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b.

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d.

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2 Name of parent lineage traces through:

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Date

Place

Sources documents proving these facts

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b.

---

d.

---

m.

---

married to

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Date

Place

Sources documents proving these facts

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b.

---

d.

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3 Name of grandparent lineage traces through:

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		
m.		
married to		

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		

4 Name of great-grandparent lineage traces through:

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		
m.		
married to		

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		

5 Name of great-great-grandparent lineage traces through:

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		
m.		
married to		

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		

6 Name of 3<sup>rd</sup>-great-grandparent lineage traces through:

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		
m.		
married to		

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		

7 Name of 4<sup>th</sup>-great-grandparent lineage traces through:

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		
m.		
married to		

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		

8 Name of 5<sup>th</sup>-great-grandparent lineage traces through:

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		
m.		
married to		

Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
b.		
d.		

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9 Name of 6<sup>th</sup>-great-grandparent lineage traces through:

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Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
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b.

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d.

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m.

---

married to

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Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
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b.

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d.

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10 Name of 7<sup>th</sup>-great-grandparent lineage traces through :

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Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
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b.

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d.

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m.

---

married to

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Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
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b.

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d.

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If a collateral link is used in this application please complete this section:

Name of qualifying collateral person:

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Date	Place	Sources documents proving these facts
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b.

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d.

---

m.

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related to my ancestor as his/her

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Sources documents proving these facts

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If any space above does not allow room for entry of all data needed use this page to add numbered notes. Add a line at the point above such as “See note 1.” Then add text on this page marked as “Note 1:” followed by the explanatory text.

TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
PIONEER CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

To: Applicants for All TxSGS Certificate Programs

From: Lela Evans

Enclosed is a set of Application Papers for any of the TxSGS Certificate Programs. A Supplementary family group sheet is also included. You may make copies for each generation. If you need more than one application, please make copies of the enclosed papers or send a SASE (63 cents postage and legal size) for each set of papers in your request. A separate application must be completed for each Texas ancestor (except in the case of a husband and wife) for which a certificate is desired. The \$30.00 fee must accompany each application and is non-refundable. Applicants do not have to be members of TxSGS nor residents of Texas to apply for any TxSGS certificate program.

**DIRECT OR COLLATERAL DESCENT**

A direct line of descent would be through an applicant's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on to a qualifying person. A collateral line would be if a brother or sister of one of the applicant's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on qualifies for service instead of the ancestor. The collateral relationship must be explained on the Line of Descent Chart.

**FIRST FAMILIES REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for the Texas First Families certificate, applicants must prove direct or collateral descent from an ancestor who settled in Texas or served the Republic of Texas before February 19, 1846, the day of the ceremony in which the Republic of Texas turned the government over to the State of Texas. Applicants should complete a Family Group Sheet (FGS) for the early ancestor, if possible, and are encouraged to complete a FGS for each generation of descendancy. Family group sheets can be printed from your genealogy program instead of using the enclosed form. Please try to prove all dates on the Line of Descent page. Any information on the Line of Descent for which no proof is provided will not be included in the Texas First Families database or future publications.

All members of SRT, DRT, and CRT are eligible for this certificate, but **MUST SUBMIT A COMPLETE APPLICATION WITH DOCUMENTED PROOF** of descendancy. Records from these other societies are not readily available to TSOGS nor do members of the committee have time to search these records for proof of an applicant's ancestor.

Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) has already published two volumes from this project with plans for additional volumes and it will be necessary to have each application complete. Unproven information will not be included in the published volumes. All applications and supporting documentation will become the property of the Texas State Genealogical Society. The Society may use any or all of the material to publish a book, or as part of the Society's quarterly publication, *Stirpes*, or as part of the Society's web or internet-based publishing. Birth and marriage information on living persons will not be knowingly published in future volumes; only names of those still living may be published.

**GONE TO TEXAS PIONEER REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for a Gone to Texas Pioneer Certificate, the applicant must prove direct or collateral descent from a person who was in Texas prior to 1886. A separate certificate may be issued for each ancestor proven. Applicants must be able to prove descent with official records for each generation. Official documentation showing that the applicant's ancestor was a settler must be provided.

## **WEST TEXAS PIONEER REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for a West Texas Pioneer Certificate the applicant must prove direct or collateral descent from a person who was in West Texas (as defined by list of 133 Counties attached) prior to 1901. Applicants must be able to prove descent with official records for each generation. Official documentation showing that the applicant's ancestor was a settler must be provided.

## **DESCENDANTS OF TEXAS RANGERS REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for a Descendants of Texas Rangers Certificate, an applicant must prove direct or collateral descent from someone who served as a Texas Ranger and who is deceased. Applicants must be able to prove descent with official records for each generation. Official documentation showing that the applicant's ancestor or collateral relative served as a Texas Ranger must be provided.

## **GREER COUNTY PIONEER REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for a certificate, an applicant must be directly or collaterally descended from someone who settled in Greer County, Texas, before 1907. Prior to 1860 Greer County was considered part of Indian Territory. The Texas legislature passed an act for the formation of the county in 1860, but the county ceased to exist in 1907. A collateral ancestor is a brother or sister of the settler. Applicants must be able to prove descent with official records for each generation. Official documentation showing that the applicant's ancestor was a settler must be provided.

## **ALL CERTIFICATES**

Please follow directions on the application and in the FAQ list included. A \$30.00 fee made payable to the Texas State Genealogical Society must accompany each application. This fee is non-refundable. If you have questions about the application, please send these with a SASE.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete to the best of your ability the enclosed application. If you have more than one qualifying ancestor, complete a separate application for each ancestor and for each certificate program for which you are applying. Only one ancestor will be inscribed on a certificate, except when the ancestor and spouse both qualify. Family group records on the supplementary forms including names of children, dates and places of birth, marriage and death, and names of spouses, including the applicant's family, may be attached to the application if desired. This would be an excellent way in which to preserve information.

**PROOFS OF DESCENT:** To ensure that the certificate is the result of credible genealogical research, the following ORIGINAL SOURCES are deemed acceptable: Vital records (birth, marriage, and death); probate records; all census records (local, state, and federal); and Bible and baptismal records. The following sources may be cited as circumstantial evidence but must be supported by an explanation: land; tax; military service; church, cemetery, and tombstone records; obituaries; and court records.

The inclusion of the following supplemental resources is encouraged but ARE NOT ACCEPTED as proof of lineage: newspaper clippings; published family histories; published county histories; published biographical records; and city and county directories. Private papers and personal records such as letters, diaries, journals, and reminiscences may be evaluated on an individual basis.

**SUBMITTED MATERIALS:** All applications and verifying material become the property of the Texas State Genealogical Society. The Society has published two volumes of qualifying applications and plans to publish additional volumes. No original documents should be submitted. Send a photocopy or other facsimile copy of pertinent materials. Applicants are encouraged to include biographical information on their early Texas ancestor.



Eligibility shall be determined by a committee appointed by the Texas State Genealogical Society. The committee's decision shall be final. Incorrect or incomplete applications will be held for one year after corrections or additions are requested from the applicant. After that time files may be destroyed and the applicant resubmit the full application packet.

Sincerely,

TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Lela Evans                      Email: [certificates@txsgs.org](mailto:certificates@txsgs.org)

829 Robin Meadow Drive

DeSoto, TX 75115