

**IONIA COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**



**CENTENNIAL
CERTIFICATE**

**Honoring Ancestors Who Lived in Ionia
County 100 Years Ago**

ICGS - CENTENNIAL CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS/REQUIREMENTS

A direct descendant of an individual who can be documented living in Ionia County within the last 100 years is eligible to make application for an **Ionia County CENTENNIAL CERTIFICATE**.

Applicants must be a member of the **Ionia County Genealogical Society** for the year in which the application is submitted. Currently, dues are \$15 per family, per year. In addition, there is a one-time \$15 fee for each adult applicant, and an \$10 fee for each child applicant (under 18), living at home. Fees must accompany the completed application. If the application is rejected for insufficient proof, you will be contacted and given the opportunity to submit the necessary documentation.

The completed application must be received by August 15th. Applications received after that date will be processed the following year. You will be updated on the status of your application.

If you have numerous ancestors who qualify for a **CENTENNIAL CERTIFICATE** but are unable to prove one particular person or a family line, it is possible to submit their proof later (with additional fee) and receive an amended certificate.

If a relative has already received as **CENTENNIAL CERTIFICATE** you may refer to their certificate number and need only submit the documentation linking your connection to theirs. No need to duplicate documentation already submitted.

Submit documentation beginning with yourself, going back, generation by generation, to the ancestor(s) who are eligible for your certificate.

Proof of each step **MUST** be submitted with the completed application, using photocopies, not originals. Reference the volume and page number of book, including a photocopy of the pertinent pages. Typed, hand printed, or handwritten extracts of documents, not certified as "true copies," are **NOT** accepted as proof unless from a government office. Manuscripts written by the applicant or applicant's family will **NOT** be accepted as proof, unless accompanied by documentation.

If you are proving ancestors of both your mother and father, please complete a separate lineage worksheet for both parents. [It makes the application process go smoother for those who review your application.]

When more than two family lines are being proven, please complete the enclosed pedigree chart to show the interconnections and **highlight** the Ionia County ancestors you are proving.

All completed applications are checked for accuracy by the First Families Committee. Your certificate will be presented at the annual awards banquet. If you are unable to attend the banquet, your certificate will be mailed.

The application, and all supporting documents and data, becomes the property of the **Ionia County Genealogical Society**, and will remain in the Society's files. The information may be shared with others doing genealogy research, and duplicated.

Please Note: A great deal of information can be found on the Internet at subscription sites such as ancestry.com, and others like seekingmichigan.org and familysearch.org, but finding many records still requires legwork.

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WHERE DO YOU BEGIN? BEGIN WITH YOURSELF

Inside this application packet is an ancestor chart--use it as your guide. Hand print your name, then your father and mother, grandparents, great-grandparents. Follow the family line back to the ancestor(s) that lived in Ionia County within the last 100 years. Now fill in the birth, marriage and death dates. Then type or hand print the names and dates on the application.

Note: Every step [for each person in the ancestral line you are documenting] must be proven. Be sure to enclose a copy of the actual document--a written transcript won't do. **On each proof, please make a pencil mark beside or use highlighter on the copy to help us locate your ancestor's name.**

Primary evidence (considered to be excellent proof) includes:

Vital statistics (*birth, death, and marriage certificates*)

Court house or other government records (*military, land records, deeds, wills, land warrants, naturalization records, tax lists, guardianship, ward and trustee, and civil dockets*)

Church (*birth and baptism, marriage, death, membership, etc.*)

School records (*enrollment and school census*)

Bible records (*with title page and publication date of the Bible*), or other family records created at the time of the fact reported (*not something written many years afterward*)

Secondary evidence (*while valuable, must be backed up by additional data*) includes:

Census *must include a photocopy of the census sheet, including heading and enumeration lines of the family in the margin, or on the back of the copy, please note the year, state, microfilm roll and frame number, city, ward and page. Census records before 1850 are of limited value, as they name only the head of the family. People who are in the same household on the census cannot be assumed to be relatives unless expressly stated so on the census form.*

Newspaper clippings and obituaries (*Document the name of newspaper, page number and date of publication*)

Old family letters (*dated, signed*)

While county histories are considered good, but require additional evidence. Indexes and books of county records compiled by a genealogical society for library use may be copied and submitted as secondary proof. *When copying pages from a book, be sure to also copy the title page, and see that it contains the title, publisher, city of publication, and date of publication.* (Sometimes you have to copy two pages to get all this.)

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Photographs or "true copies" of tombstone inscriptions usually only provide birth and death dates. However, some relationships are shown on the tombstone and are considered good proof.

Circumstantial evidence (*not considered proof unless backed up by primary or secondary evidence*) includes: —

Family histories with no source documentation. Oral, written or published family traditions or histories are often wrong and **are not** acceptable as proof. Remember, a statement is not necessarily true just because "Grandma" said so, or because it is in print.

The LDS and IGI: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (*LDS, often called the Mormons*) has the largest collection of genealogical source material in the world. They have microfilmed records in churches, government files, and private collections throughout the world, and have made this information available to researchers. You may search for your ancestor, at no cost, on the LDS Web site or visit a local LDS family history center and use their CD-databases. While the IGI is a helpful resource to get people started in genealogy, the IGI submissions were not documented, and are not considered acceptable proof.

The LDS research librarian can help you learn what records are available on microfilm (*can be rented at a nominal fee*) that may help you in your family research.

Help is available from the First Families Committee, from Feb.-Nov., before the Ionia County Genealogical Society's monthly meeting. *The monthly meetings are held at 1:00 PM on the second Saturday of each month, at the Freight Station in the museum complex, located next to the train depot on Emerson Street in Lake Odessa.* If you need help, we will gladly assist you from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM, as well as after the ICGS meeting.

Any questions, write, call or email:

First Families Chairman
ioniacogensoc@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 516
Lake Odessa, MI 48849-0516
<http://ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/icgshome.htm>
ICGS Message Line: 616-374-8455

Mail completed applications and proofs to:

First Families of Ionia County Committee
Ionia County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 516
Lake Odessa, MI 48849-0516

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUG. 15

IONIA COUNTY SOCIETY CENTENNIAL CERTIFICATE WORKSHEET

APPLICANT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

IS THIS A SURPRISE? ____ **IF SO, CONTACT:** _____

Directions: Begin with yourself as #1. Number 2 is the parent you are proving. If both of your parents have ancestors who are eligible for First Families, please complete two separate lineage worksheets. On the enclosed pedigree chart, please highlight the Ionia County ancestors you are proving. It is not necessary, but may be helpful for you to use the enclosed Evidence Check Sheet to keep track of documentation sources.

Fill out your lineage as completely as possible. List the documentation you are supplying, and remember to submit copies, i.e., birth, death, or marriage certificates, never your original documents. If an individual had multiple spouses, you only need to document your direct connection. Refer to instructions for acceptable documentation.

(1) Your Full Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Full Name of Spouse: _____ **Widowed** ____ **Divorced** ____

Marriage Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Other Spouse(s): _____ **Widowed** ____ **Divorced** ____

Children's Names: _____

You are the child of:

(2) Name of Parent: _____

(whose lineage is being documented)

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Full Name of Spouse: _____ **Widowed** ____ **Divorced** ____

Marriage Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Parent's Other Spouse(s): _____ **Widowed** ____ **Divorced** ____

Children's Names: _____

Additional Information: (Use Back if Necessary)

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#2 is the child of:

(3) Name of Parent: _____
(whose lineage is being proven)

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Full Name of Spouse: _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Marriage Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Other Spouse(s): _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Names of Children: _____

#3 is the child of:

(4) Name of Parent: _____
(whose lineage is being proven)

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Full Name of Spouse: _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Marriage Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Other Spouse(s): _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Names of Children: _____

Additional Information: (Use Back if Necessary)

#4 is the child of:

(5) Name of Parent: _____
(whose lineage is being proven)

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Full Name of Spouse: _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Marriage Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Other Spouse(s): _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Names of Children: _____

#5 is the child of:

(6) Name of Parent: _____
(whose lineage is being proven)

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Full Name of Spouse: _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Marriage Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Other Spouse(s): _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Names of Children: _____

Additional Information: (Use Back if Necessary)

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#6 is the child of:

(7) Name of Parent: _____

(whose lineage is being proven)

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Full Name of Spouse: _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Marriage Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Other Spouse(s): _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Names of Children: _____

#7 is the child of:

(8) Name of Parent: _____

(whose lineage is being proven)

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Full Name of Spouse: _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Marriage Date/Place: _____

Documentation: _____

Other Spouse(s): _____ Widowed ___ Divorced ___

Names of Children: _____

Additional Information: (Use Back if Necessary)

DOCUMENT WORKSHEET

Applicant: _____

Ancestor: _____ Ancestor number: _____ (from FAMILY TREE CHART)

	A	B	C
1	RECORD	X	List other people this record includes, do not duplicate record
2	Birth Record		
3	Marriage Record		
4	Death Record		
5	1790 census		
6	1800 census		
7	1810 census		
8	1820 census		
9	1830 census		
10	1840 census		
11	1850 census		
12	1860 census		
13	1870 census		
14	1880 census		
15	1890 census		
16	1900 census		
17	1910 census		
18	1920 census		
19	1930 census		
20	1940 census		
21	Anniversary Records		
22	Banns / intentions		
23	Bible Records		
24	Cemetery Records		
25	City Directory Records		
26	Correspondence Records		
27	Diaries & Journal Records		
28	Employment Records		
29	Fraternal Records		
30	Funeral Home Records		
31	Genealogy & Family Records		
32	Immigration Records		
33	Land Records		
34	Local Histories		

Use one Document Work Sheet for each ancestor on pedigree chart and attach documents to the work sheet.

	A	B	C
35	Map		
36	Military Records		
37	Naturalization Records		
38	Newspaper Clippings		
39	Obituary / Death Notice		
40	Passengers Lists		
41	Pension Records		
42	Probate Records		
43	School Records		
44	Social Security Records		
45	Tax Records		
46	Voters Records		
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FAMILY TREE CHART

Name: _____
 Birth Date: _____
 Birth Place: _____
 Marriage Date: _____
 Marriage Place: _____

Name: _____

Mother

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Birth Place: _____

Death Date: _____

Death Place: _____

Father

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Birth Place: _____

Marriage Date: _____

Marriage Place: _____

Death Date: _____

Death Place: _____

Grandmother

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Birth Place: _____

Death Date: _____

Death Place: _____

Grandfather

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Birth Place: _____

Marriage Date: _____

Marriage Place: _____

Death Date: _____

Death Place: _____

Grandmother

Grandmother

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Birth Place: _____

Death Date: _____

Death Place: _____

Great-Grandfather

Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Great-Grandmother

Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Great-Grandfather

Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Great-Grandmother

Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Great-Grandfather

Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Great-Grandmother

Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Great-Grandfather

Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____

Great-Grandmother

Name: _____

Birth Date/Place: _____

Death Date/Place: _____