

The Society of Indiana Pioneers



HONORING THE MEMORY AND THE WORK OF THE PIONEERS OF INDIANA

ORGANIZED 1916 INCORPORATED 1922

140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2207
(317) 441-8293

Website: www.indianapioneers.org

Email: office@indianapioneers.org / genealogist@indianapioneers.org

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Anyone who can prove direct descent from at least one Indiana pioneer is eligible for regular or junior membership in The Society of Indiana Pioneers. An Indiana pioneer is one who lived within the present boundary of a county on or before December 31, 1840 unless that county is one of the following, in which case the pioneer must have lived within the present boundary of that county on or before December 31, 1850: **Adams, Benton, Blackford, DeKalb, Fulton, Howard, Jasper, Jay, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Newton, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, Starke, Steuben, Tipton, Wells, White, or Whitley** .

If manually filling in the application, please type or print plainly in black ink. Please do not use a highlighter on documentation; underlining is preferred. For those who are familiar with computers, we have a downloadable application that can be found on our website, www.indianapioneers.org that is a fill-in template format.

Mail completed application form, required documentation and check to the society genealogist at the above address. If you are mailing in one application, please remit a check for \$50.00 which covers the application fee and your first year's dues. The application and required documentation will be checked and additional documentation requested, if necessary.

Other eligible pioneer ancestral lines may be added at any time upon approval of an "Added Line Application" and payment of required fees (\$15.00 additional line fee). Additional applications may be requested or can be downloaded from our website at www.indianapioneers.org. Simply use the main application form and check "Additional Line" box. The requirements are the same as those for the original ancestor. However, you do not need to send copies of documents already in the Society files. Under "Proof", give adequate reference to previously approved ancestor/s (e.g., Application of John Doe).

DOCUMENTING THE APPLICATION

All documents submitted must be readable. Send a photocopy or a certified copy. These documents will be filed with the application in the Society permanent files. ***Please do not staple pages together as we will be scanning all documentation.***

Please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section for details on required documentation.

Note that Pedigree (Family Tree) Charts and Family Group Charts are not enough documentation. Use them as guides to your records and to find the documents needed to prove your statements.

FEES

Application Fee (one ancestor)	\$25.00
Annual Membership dues	\$25.00
Additional Lines(per ancestor).....	\$15.00
Sustaining Membership Dues.....	\$35.00
Life Membership	\$600.00
Junior Membership Dues(members under 18)	\$10.00

A membership card will be issued upon acceptance of the application.

If desired, a Membership Certificate (suitable for framing), showing the member's name, ancestor's name, and date the certificate is issued, may be purchased for \$15.00.

Frequently Asked Questions

Completing the Society of Indiana Pioneers Application

- **Q: I am comfortable with Adobe PDF's and my computer. Is there an application form available for me to use so that I don't have to hand write all my information onto the application?**
- A: Yes, there is. If you go to our website at www.indianapioneers.org you will see a tab for "JOIN" on the gold ribbon at the top of the page. Click on that link and it will take you to the Membership page.
 - o Once on this page you will see the qualification dates for all the Indiana counties. (For most counties, it is December 31, 1840 except for the 23 counties that have a new cutoff date of 12/31/1850.) Scroll down until you see "Adobe PDF version." Click on this and choose to "SAVE" it to your computer.
 - Once you have the template saved, you can then add your information, save it to your computer and make changes as needed.
 - o Please note that the Application is in Template form which means that you have a certain amount of spaces to enter your names, dates and places. This also means that it is easier to navigate.
 - o Your source documentation area will expand so that you can enter the types of documentation you are providing.

- **Q: I have all my names, dates and places. What do I need to provide as documentation and why is it necessary?**
- A: Please start with your own generation and provide birth, marriage and any death records that are necessary to document your own generation.
 - o The birth certificate will confirm your birth date and also give an important link back to the previous generation.
 - o Each generation back should attempt to document the birth, marriage, and death for each generation. Keep in mind that it is also important to provide some type of linking document that ties that generation back to the prior generation.
 - o Different types of documentation are as follows:
 - Birth, Marriage, and Death Certificates.
 - Wills and Deeds are often used to document links between generations. The family relationship needs to be clearly proven.
 - Census records where relationships are definitely given such as father, mother, son, and daughter. Early census records (1850-1870) list family unit names but do not clearly give family relationships. If you use one of the earlier census records, it will be helpful to provide some other types of documentation also.
 - Naturalization records, Passenger Lists and Court Records giving specific information are wonderful sources also.
 - Of course, Family Bibles are excellent sources when they have been filled in by the head of that family.
 - Obituaries can work as documentation when specific dates, names and relationships are given. *Please copy the obituary onto a 8.5x11 sheet of paper so that it does not get lost. Also, note the name of the newspaper, date of the obituary and the town/state where it was from.*
 - Family History books and County History Books will only be accepted if they are properly cited with their sources. *Please contact the genealogist if you have a question on this type of documentation.*
 - Tombstone photos are helpful to provide dates and possibly relationships. *It is suggested that you copy the photo onto a 8.5x11 sheet of paper so that it does not get lost. If it is hard to read, please type or write the information that is found on the tombstone.*
 - If you have a question, feel free to contact the genealogist at: genealogist@indianapioneers.org

- **Q: If I have been previously approved by DAR, SAR or some other lineage society, can I just send in a copy of my approved application?**
- A: We would be the first to recognize the stringent requirements for various lineage societies, but we do request that applicants go ahead and make copies of their documentation that they used for a previously approved application and mail it in with their Society of Indiana Pioneer application. We are a small lineage society and like to have our documentation available for future generations. You might think of it as placing your family history in multiple places for safe-keeping. While we are very careful to keep recent generations private, it is wonderful when we are able to provide valuable information to someone starting their family research into their early ancestors. Think of it as making our society a repository of Indiana pioneer history.

- **Q: Do I need copies of the original documents or will transcribed records be sufficient?**
- A: Either one will be accepted. If you are sending a transcribed record, please include a copy of the title page so that it would be possible to find that record in the future.

- **Q: Should I highlight the pertinent information?**
- A: Please do not use highlighter since over time it will fade and when making digital copies, it makes the information hard to read.
 - o It is helpful to have the important information underlined with a red pen or pencil. That way the genealogist is certain to see the information that you have pointed out.

- **Q: How do you like to see dates written?**
- A: The clearest way to write a date is the following: 31 Dec 1840.

- **Q: If I have a relative who is already a member of the Society of Indiana Pioneers, do I need to locate all the documentation again?**
- A: No! Go ahead and fill in all the names, dates and places for each generation but in the source section for each generation, enter something similar to the following: "See the 2008 application of John Doe for ancestor Jane Doe."
 - o You will need to provide documentation for your own generation as described above, along with documentation for each generation back until you have "tied" into your relative's approved application.
 - For example: If you have a grandfather that is a member and you would like to join also, you would need to provide the birth and marriage information for your generation and the birth, marriage and death information for the previous generation. Either the birth certificate or a death certificate for Generation #2 should then tie into your grandfather's application since it would list parents.
 - Don't forget to go ahead and enter the names, dates and places for each generation back to the ancestor! That will help for future generations.

- **Q: Why should I check the online Index of Ancestors on the Indiana Society of Pioneers website?**
- A: It is always a great way to get started! We continually update this Index and if you are fortunate enough to find your ancestor listed, you may contact the office and the genealogist will gladly check previous applications to see what type of information is available on your ancestor. Remember, this Society has been in existence since 1916 and with over 9,000 ancestors, there has been a large amount of information submitted! Just go to www.indianapioneers.org and click on the tab marked "Ancestors."

- **Q: Why should I encourage my family members and friends to join the Society of Indiana Pioneers?**

- A: That's an easy one to answer! This lineage society is a wonderful way to pay tribute to our pioneer ancestors who braved the unknown wilderness for the prospect of providing a better home for their families. For a few members their ancestors played a well-celebrated role in our state and have been recognized in many ways over the years. For the vast majority of Indiana pioneers, the recognition that they have received has been the knowledge that they worked hard and grew their families. The Society of Indiana Pioneers is a wonderful way to pay tribute to these ancestors of ours, well-known or not, and to make sure that their contributions to our wonderful state are not forgotten.

It is also important to consider our archives as a repository for Indiana genealogy. Your research and documentation will be preserved for future generations.

- **Q: Where is the Society of Indiana Pioneers office located and can I talk with someone in person?**

- A: We are located on the 1st floor of the Indiana State Library in the Genealogy room. We have a corner that is divided by filing cabinets on the south side of the room. The office manager is available on Monday and Wednesday's between 9am and 1pm. The genealogist is available by appointment or through emails. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please call the office and leave a message. (317) 441-8293. If you need an application, there are copies on the desk in front of our office area and they can be found in a downloadable form on our website.