

WHATCOM COUNTY WASHINGTON **PIONEER / EARLY SETTLER CERTIFICATES**

sponsored by

Whatcom Genealogical Society

PO Box 1493, Bellingham, WA 98227-1493

Web site: <http://wagenweb.org/whatcom/WGS/wgs.htm>

Eligibility: To qualify for a Pioneer or Old Settler Certificate, an applicant must be directly descended from an ancestor who settled in Whatcom County as follows:

⇒ **Pioneers** (Prior to 1890 – Washington Territory) - **Gold Seal**

⇒ **Early Settlers** (1890 to 1910) - **Silver Seal**

Each ancestor in the direct line must be proved. Applicants need not have ever been residents of Whatcom County to apply. After proof of direct descent has been submitted and eligibility has been determined, we will present you with the appropriate certificate. Separate certificates will be issued for each ancestor properly submitted. The nonrefundable fee for each application packet is \$10.

Purpose: To honor our Whatcom County pioneer forefathers, and to keep their memory alive. To encourage a basic knowledge of genealogical research by asking any direct descendant to put together their family history and apply for a certificate. The information gathered from this project will become a valuable research tool, and will add to our knowledge of the history of Whatcom County.

Document copies submitted as proof will be kept by the Whatcom Genealogical Society, and, if permission has been granted by applicant, the information will be made available for family history research. Documents pertaining to living relatives will be noted and returned. A list of surnames/ancestors may be made available on the WGS Web site in the future.

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 Whatcom County history.

Instructions:

1. Please type or print the application.
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 2000)
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 WGS.

7. Send a check or money order made payable to WGS for each application to:
Whatcom Genealogy Society, PO Box 1493, Bellingham, WA 98227-1493.

Additional certificates for other family members: If brothers and 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, and all must be sent together.

Additional Pioneer/Old Settler ancestors: This would be an entirely new application and would cost \$10.

Acceptable Documentation:

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
Newspaper clippings
Tombstone inscriptions
Published family and county histories
City or county directories
Atlas or plat books

A committee of WGS members shall determine certificate eligibility. The committee decision shall be final.

**APPLICATION FOR
WHATCOM COUNTY WASHINGTON PIONEER / OLD SETTLER CERTIFICATES**

In order to determine eligibility for receiving a certificate, both the residence of the Pioneer / Old Settler ancestor in Whatcom Co., Washington, as well as the descent to the applicant must be documented. Fill in the following form to the best of your ability and provide copies of the necessary proof.

- Instructions:
1. Start with yourself (applicant) as the first generation.
 2. The last generation will be the Pioneer / Old Settler 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 / Old Settler Ancestor: _____

Date and Place of Pioneer / Old Settler settlement in Whatcom County, Washington: _____

Proof of above: _____

Applicant name: _____ **Address:** _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone: _____

E-mail address _____

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: _____

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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: _____

Disclaimer: All applications and documents proving lineage become the property of Whatcom Genealogical Society. In the future the Society may wish to publish information gathered from this project. Please check the appropriate box below:

- Permission granted to include my information in future publications of Whatcom Genealogical Society. A photograph and short biography of your ancestor would be appreciated.
- Do not publish my information.

Submit: application and applicable fee as described to:
Whatcom Genealogy Society
PO Box 1493, Bellingham, WA 98227-1493

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Additional Certificates (ordered at the same time):

The following members of my family wish to have certificates issued in their names for the above pioneer / old settler ancestor (include proof of descent):

- 1.) _____ Relationship: _____
- 2.) _____ Relationship: _____
- 3.) _____ Relationship: _____

Pioneer / Old Settler Certification Approval by Whatcom Genealogical Society:

This is to certify that I have checked the submitted proof and find that the above-named pioneer / old settler was in Whatcom County, Washington by the time stated, and that the applicant qualifies for a _____ certificate.

Certificate No. _____ issued this _____ date of _____, 201__

WGS Representative: _____

FAMILY GROUP SHEET FOR
MY WHATCOM COUNTY PIONEER / OLD SETTLER ANCESTOR

WASHINGTON PIONEER / OLD SETTLER ANCESTOR'S NAME

DATE OF EARLIEST RESIDENCE IN STATE _____

WHERE _____

DATE BORN _____ WHERE _____

DATE DIED _____ WHERE _____

BURIED WHERE _____

PIONEER'S / OLD SETTLER'S OCCUPATION, MILITARY OR OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE:

PIONEER'S / OLD SETTLER'S FATHER _____

PIONEER'S / OLD SETTLER'S MOTHER _____

MY PIONEER / OLD SETTLER ANCESTOR MARRIED

(Name of spouse from whom I am descended)

MARRIAGE DATE _____ WHERE _____

SPOUSE'S BIRTH DATE _____ WHERE _____

SPOUSE'S DEATH DATE _____ WHERE _____

SPOUSE'S FATHER _____ SPOUSE'S MOTHER _____

CHILDREN OF ABOVE PIONEER / OLD SETTLER AND SPOUSE

NAME

BIRTH DATE

BIRTH PLACE

SPOUSE

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

FAMILY GROUP SHEET FOR MY WHATCOM COUNTY PIONEER / OLD SETTLER ANCESTOR
(cont'd)

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

DID PIONEER / OLD SETTLER HAVE CHILDREN BY ANOTHER MARRIAGE? ____ YES ____ NO
IF SO, LIST THEM AS A SEPARATE FAMILY ON ANOTHER SHEET.