

FIRST FAMILIES OF EAST TEXAS - SMITH COUNTY CERTIFICATES

Are you descended from a pioneer who was living in Smith County before December 31, 1850. The East Texas Genealogical Society is collecting and preserving genealogical records and family histories for these early settlers. Your ancestor could be included! ETGS would like to recognize your ancestor by sending you a "***First Families of East Texas - Smith County Certificate***".

ELIGIBILITY: To qualify for a certificate, an applicant must be directly or collaterally descended from someone who was living in Smith County before December 31, 1850. A collateral ancestor is a brother or sister of the settler who was living in Smith County at that time. Applicants must be able to prove descent with official records for each generation. Official documentation showing that the applicant's ancestor was residing in Smith County by this date also must be provided. Applicants do not need to reside in Smith County or be members of the East Texas Genealogical Society.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the attached Application Form and Line of Descent Chart that is on the reverse side of the form. Applicants who have more than one ancestor who was living in Smith County before December 31, 1850, and would like to have a certificate for each ancestor, should complete a separate Application Form and Line of Descent Chart for each ancestor. However, it is not necessary to complete more than one application form if the pioneer settlers were husband and wife. In that case, both their names will be inscribed on the same certificate. Make as many copies of the application form as needed. Supplemental forms such as Family Group Sheets or Pedigree Charts that contain 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 to preserve the information.

PROOF OF DESCENT RECORDS: Copies (DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL RECORDS) of the following Primary Source Records may be submitted as proof of descent from the early Smith County settler: Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, and Death); Probate Records; Census Records (Local, State, and Federal); and Bible and Baptismal Records. The following Secondary Source Records may be cited as circumstantial evidence but must be supported by an explanation: Land; Tax; Military Service; Church; Cemetery and Tombstone; Obituaries; and Court Records.

Applicants are encouraged to include copies of the following Supplemental Source Records; however, they **MAY NOT BE USED** 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 will be evaluated on an individual basis.

SUBMITTED MATERIALS: All applications and supporting documentation will become the property of the East Texas 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, *East Texas Family Records*, or as part of the Society's web or internet-based publishing.

Eligibility will be determined by a committee appointed by ETGS. The committee's decision will be final. Incorrect or incomplete applications will be returned for corrections or additions.

Mail the applications, copies of proof of descent records, copies of source records, and a non-refundable \$25.00 check or money order (for each application) payable to the East Texas Genealogical Society to the following address:

EAST TEXAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 6967, Tyler, TX 75711-6967

**EAST TEXAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FIRST FAMILIES OF EAST TEXAS - SMITH COUNTY
APPLICATION FORM**

Instructions: Fill in all blanks, beginning with yourself as the first generation. Type or print all information. A check or money order for \$25.00 must accompany the application. This fee is not refundable.

1. Applicant: _____
(Name as it will appear on Certificate)
 Address: _____
(Street or PO Box #)
 Address: _____
(City, State, Zip Code)

For ETGS Use Only
File #: _____
Received: _____
Check/MO# _____
Completed: _____
Cert Issued: _____
Comments: _____

2. Ancestor's Name: _____
(Name of the qualifying ancestor who was living in Smith County before Dec. 31, 1850 as it will appear on Certificate.)

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____
 Date of Death: _____ Place of Death: _____
 Date of Marriage: _____ Place of Marriage: _____
 Name of Spouse: _____
 Date of Arrival in Smith County: _____
 Place of Residence: _____
 Emigrated to Smith County from: _____

3. Biography of Ancestor:

This should include occupation, military service, religious preference, and any other known information.

EAST TEXAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FIRST FAMILIES OF EAST TEXAS - SMITH COUNTY
LINE OF DESCENT CHART

1. Applicant's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Place of Birth: _____
(Town) (County) (State)

2. Child of: _____ Married to: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Birth Place: _____
Marriage Date: _____ Marriage Place: _____
Date of Death: _____ Death Place: _____

3. Child of: _____ Married to: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Birth Place: _____
Marriage Date: _____ Marriage Place: _____
Date of Death: _____ Death Place: _____

4. Child of: _____ Married to: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Birth Place: _____
Marriage Date: _____ Marriage Place: _____
Date of Death: _____ Death Place: _____

5. Child of: _____ Married to: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Birth Place: _____
Marriage Date: _____ Marriage Place: _____
Date of Death: _____ Death Place: _____

6. Child of: _____ Married to: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Birth Place: _____
Marriage Date: _____ Marriage Place: _____
Date of Death: _____ Death Place: _____

7. Child of: _____ Married to: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Birth Place: _____
Marriage Date: _____ Marriage Place: _____
Date of Death: _____ Death Place: _____

List the source records that show proof of descent for each generation. Number the photocopied source records to correspond to the generation numbers on the chart above.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

(Signature of Applicant/Submitter)

(Date Submitted)