

Society launches Augusta Pioneers

The Augusta County Historical Society announces with pride the formation of a family heritage recognition program. Augusta Pioneers has been formed for those whose family roots extend to the early years of the county, and who wish to submit their line of descent to complement the growing archives of the society.

Three types of membership in Augusta Pioneers will be recognized. **First Families of Augusta County** is the membership category for those whose ancestors settled in the county in the period from its founding in 1738 (or before) to the year 1800. **Pioneer Families of Augusta County** is for those whose forbears settled in Augusta County in the 19th century, that is, between the years 1801 and 1900. **Junior Pioneers of Augusta County** recognizes young people from the cradle to age 18 who are descendants of First Families or Pioneer Families.

Historical society president, Mary Beirne Nutt, noted that thousands of persons across America take pride in their Augusta County roots. "This new society is an outstanding way of recognizing that heritage and at the same time building the collections of the historical society. We hope that many local residents as well as those scattered from here to the Pacific will show their pride by becoming members of Augusta Pioneers."

Jane Sherman, C.G.R.S. (Certified Genealogical Record Searcher), who suggested the society to the board, has graciously consented to serve as volunteer Registrar for Augusta Pioneers. Her valuable professional expertise in the records of Augusta County as well as her long service with the Daughters of the American Revolution and other distinguished patriotic and ancestral organizations make her uniquely qualified as Registrar for the new society.

If you believe that you are qualified to be an Augusta Pioneer or if you would also like to enroll young members of your family—children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews—simply send in the form below to receive the application papers. Your job then is to fill in the application form and attach appropriate documentation according to the instructions on the form. If you have ever filled in applications for such organizations as the D.A.R., S.A.R., or other societies based on family line, then you probably have the material already assembled.

After you return the completed application form, it will be Jane Sherman's responsibility to check the materials to be sure they are complete and then certify to the society's board that you have been accepted for membership in either First Families of Augusta County, Pioneer Families of Augusta County or Junior Pioneers of Augusta County. The application genealogy files will become a part of the archives of the Augusta County Historical Society and available to family researchers.

All members will receive a handsome matted certificate of membership, suitable for framing. Membership in Augusta Pioneers is a one-time recognition that lasts a lifetime. Once the initial application fee is paid, there are no annual dues assessed. The fee for membership in Augusta Pioneers is a flat \$40 for descent from one ancestor. Additional ancestors may be added for only \$15 each. The junior member enrollment fee is \$15. Upon reaching the age of 18, junior members can elect to pay the additional \$25 to become full-fledged members.

Those who apply to the society by January 2004 will become Charter Members. That status will be recognized on their membership certificates. Charter Members will be honored at a special reception in 2004, to be held in the new R.R. Smith Center now under restoration and

rehabilitation. The names of the charter members and their ancestors will be published in the 2004 volume of *Augusta Historical Bulletin*.

Yes! I am interested in becoming an Augusta Pioneer. Please send the official application form and instructions for its completion to:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Mail the form to

**Augusta County Historical Society
Attn.: Jane Sherman
P.O. Box 686
Staunton, VA 24402-0686**