



California Pioneer Certificate Program Instructions

Program Description

The San Diego Genealogical Society is honoring pioneers of the State of California who helped shape its future by offering ancestral recognition certificates. The first is the California Pioneer Certificate validating descendancy from a settler in California prior to its creation as a state in 1850. The second is the California History Certificate validating descendancy from pioneers who experienced one of three historical events – the Gold Rush of 1848– 1860, the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, or the California Missions prior to 1850. Each Certificate is accompanied by a chart illustrating lineage from the applicant to the pioneer.

Submit a completed application form for each pioneer together with copies of original documents showing evidence of direct descendancy from one of the eligible pioneers mentioned above, and the certificate fee. Pictures and descriptive material about the pioneer are welcomed. Material submitted will not be returned. The San Diego Genealogical Society, at its discretion, may post on its website, information which you supply, with the exception of that relating to living people.

Pioneer Eligibility Requirements

California Pioneers must meet certain eligibility requirements depending on the type of certificate applied for.

California Pioneer Certificate – Pioneer residence within the current boundaries of California prior to 1850.

California History Certificate–Gold Rush – Pioneer residence, between the years of 1848 and 1860, in one of the following historic gold rush counties of California. Amador Butte Calaveras El Dorado Mariposa Nevada Placer Plumas Shasta Sierra Siskiyou Trinity Tuolumne Yuba

California History Certificate–San Francisco Earthquake of 1906–Pioneer residence in the County of San Francisco in 1906.

California History Certificate–California Missions – Pioneer record in a California Mission document prior to 1850.

Application Process

Information supplied on the application form should be typewritten. Complete page one with the information requested. For each generation descendant from the pioneer, supply the information indicated. Applicants who successfully show direct descendancy from one of the eligible pioneers will receive a certificate and a descendancy chart both suitable for framing. Additional copies of certificates may be purchased for a reduced fee at the time an original certificate is ordered. Please mail the completed form, with supporting documentation, to the following address:

Colin Whitney, Chair
SDGS California Pioneer Certificate Program
11035 Mystery Mountain Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

Please send any queries to:

pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com

Documentation

Copies of documents are required to support each step in the direct descent from an eligible pioneer. Examples of eligible documents are shown below:

Birth: Civil records and Church baptismal records

Marriage: Civil records and Church marriage records

Residence: Census records, Land ownership records, Directories

When primary documents are not available, some secondary documents are acceptable. Examples are a birth date on a marriage certificate or death certificate.

Certificate Fee Schedule

Members \$30 for the first certificate and descendancy chart
\$15 for each additional copy of the certificate and chart*

Non-Members \$40 for the first certificate and descendancy chart
\$25 for each additional copy of the certificate and chart*

*A separate application form is required but no additional documentation. The copy must be ordered at the same time an original certificate is ordered to receive the reduced fee. Fees are non-refundable.

Documents submitted to the San Diego Genealogical Society will not be returned.

Review Process

Once the application form and copies of the original records have been received, a team of San Diego Genealogical Society genealogists will review the documentation provided. The team may contact you for clarification or request additional records. Your response must be received within six months. When your direct lineage to one of the eligible California Pioneers has been established, a package will be mailed to you containing the certificates and the lineage charts which you ordered. Both will be printed on archival quality paper and will be suitable for framing. Examples are shown below.

Examples of Certificate and Descendancy Charts

The size of the California Pioneer Certificate, the California History Certificate, and the Descendancy Chart is 8.5" x 11". Each will be similar to those shown below.

California Pioneer Certificate CA History–Gold Rush Certificate



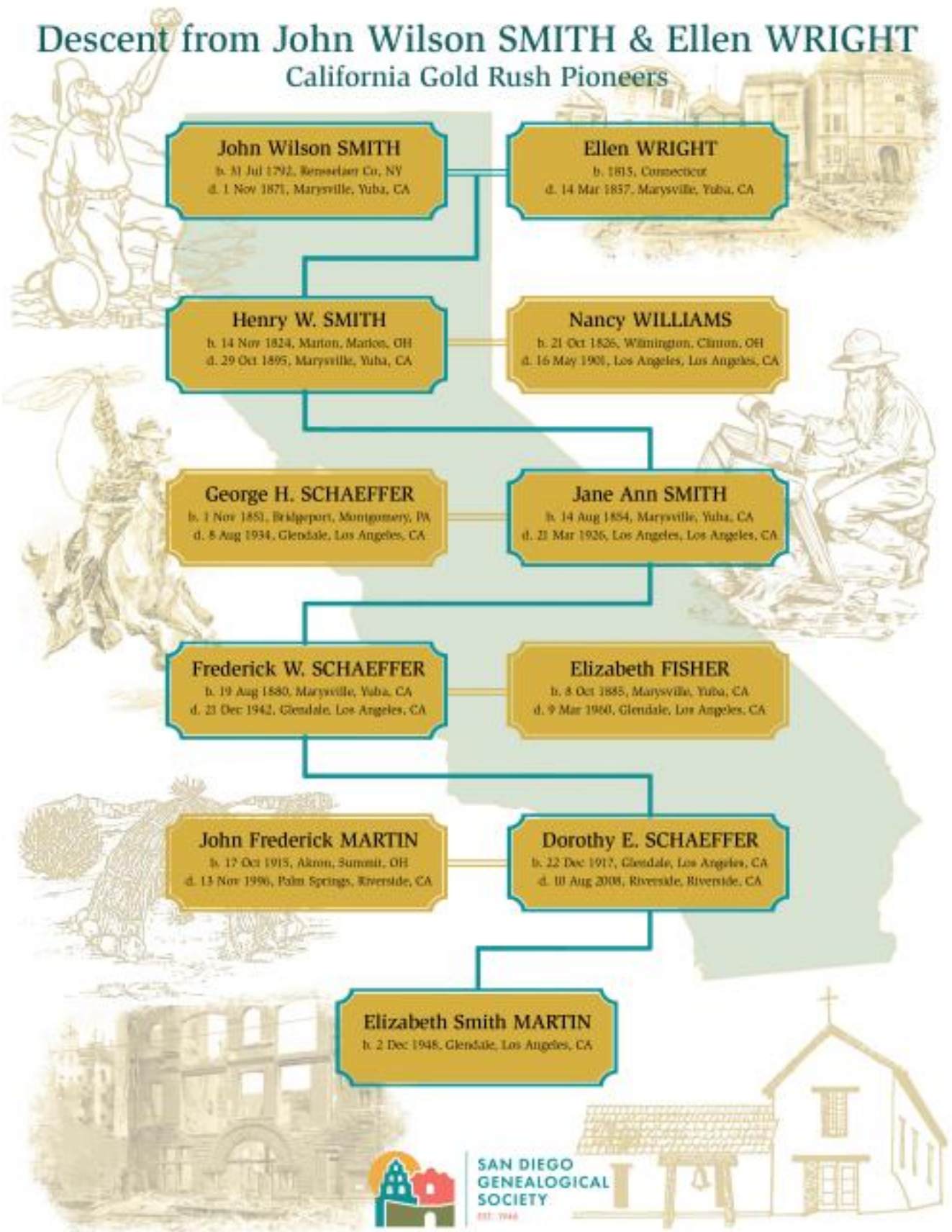
CA History–Earthquake Certificate

CA History–Missions Certificate



Descent from John Wilson SMITH & Ellen WRIGHT

California Gold Rush Pioneers



**SAN DIEGO
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**
EST. 1946

