

ILLINOIS PIONEERS

The following article appeared in the Jersey County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol.1 No.1, Oct.1991 and was sent in by George S. Smith.

The Illinois State Genealogical Society will issue 'PRAIRIE PIONEER' certificates to direct descendants of early settlers of Illinois. Many of these pioneers have gone unnoticed in history, so this is a way to gather information about them. Eventually the information submitted will be published in book form. In addition to receiving a 'PRAIRIE PIONEER' certificate, applicants will be helping to preserve the history of ancestral pioneers.

ELIGIBILITY: To qualify for a 'PRAIRIE PIONEER' certificate, applicant must be directly descended from an ancestor who settled in Illinois as follows:

Prior to statehood (Dec.3,1818) - Gold Seal with Ribbon.
1819-1850 Gold Seal
1851-1880 Stamped Seal

Applicants need not be a resident of Illinois, nor have lived in Illinois, Anyone may apply. After proof of direct descent has been submitted and eligibility has been determined, the certificate will then be mailed... (from the Illinois State Genealogical Society)

Contact the Jersey County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 12, Jerseyville, Illinois, 62052 for the necessary forms, if you would like to apply. We will have them available for you.

There are several of the Whitlock families that would qualify for this if you are interested. They do not request it but I am sure the Jersey County Genealogical Society would appreciate a S.A.S.E. if you are requesting forms.