

Guidelines for Sources, Documents, or Evidence Proving the Applicant's Lineage for The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

1. A copy of the applicant's birth certificate showing parentage **must be furnished**, if available. If not available, a hospital record or church baptismal certificate showing applicant's full name, parentage, date of birth, and certification may be furnished. If these are not available, a combination of the following suggested sources may be submitted:

a. Photocopy of full-page census records, showing the applicant in the household of his parents, b.

The marriage record of the applicant showing the parents of the parties being married.

c. The death record of one of the applicant's parents showing the applicant's name as a child of the decedent.

d. Wills, probate records, etc., of the applicant's parents showing the applicant's name as a child of the decedent.

e. Land records, court records, etc., in which relationship of parent and child is explicitly mentioned.

2. An applicant who is a blood descendant of a qualifying ancestor, but who has been adopted by another family, must provide proof of the adoption procedure.

3. Submit and mark evidence for each generation by underlining the pertinent data in red and placing the generation number in the margin next it. Do NOT use a highlighter or attach notes.

4. For proof, send the best source available, such as birth, death, or marriage certificates; pages from Bible Records, including title page and date of publication; wills; probate records; deeds; censuses; diaries; old letters; etc.

5. Family Group Sheets, Family Tree Charts, LDS IGI or Family Search records, Broderbunds World Family Tree Records, Ancestry.com World Family Tree, and items attributed to oral or family tradition, **will not** be accepted.

6. Properly annotated family histories and genealogies **may be** accepted as evidence. When the family history or genealogy is authored by the applicant or any member of his immediate family, copies of the sources used for the compilation **must** be furnished.

7. When the reference is to a published record, the author, title, date of publication, volume number, and page must be given. Photocopies of the title page and pages cited **must be supplied**. *Examples:*

a. Edwin Emery, History of Sanford, Maine 1161-1900 (1901), p. 69.

b. Massachusetts, Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, Vol. 9 (1898) p. 530.

8. When the reference is an **unpublished** record, a photocopy **must be furnished**, (i.e. Texas Birth record of James N. Smith; or Inscriptions, Old Public Cemetery, Madison, NH).

9. A certified copy of a handwritten record/document must be an exact transcript of the complete text.

10. In accordance with By-Law No. 1 Section 5, "Whenever an applicant for membership in the Society is a genetic (bloodline) relative of a present or former member of the Society whose application contains references to authorities or sources for the ancestor of that present or former member having been eligible as a Son of the American Revolution as provided in Article in of the Constitution, it shall only be necessary to establish applicant's relationship to present or former member and to include present or former member's National Number; provided that proofs satisfactory to the Genealogist General are on file at NSSAR

Headquarters to establish the line of descent from the ancestor to the present or former member. As an exception to the above paragraph, close relatives of present or former member, limited to brothers, sons, grandsons, nephews and great nephews only, may apply, using only a copy of their ancestor's approved SAR membership application and acceptable documentation of his relationship to present or former member, even if one or more of present or former member's links back to the patriot ancestor are not documented sufficiently to satisfy current requirements. No additional proof may be required of the applicant to be approved for membership provided the ancestor's patriotic service is not in question and is fully documented. If applicant does not provide acceptable new documentation for the links that are deficient, his application may be approved but will be annotated as "grandfathered." When the applicant's membership certificate is sent to him, he may be requested to submit additional information about deficient links. Until and unless any requested additional proofs are provided, an application annotated as "grandfathered" **may not** be used by third parties for either original applications or supplemental applications."

11. When applications are based on old SAR or DAR papers that did not provide spaces for dates and places, the applicant shall complete those spaces and provide acceptable documentation. Each paper will be judged on its merit, and ALL such applications are subject to review and updating of proofs, if necessary.

12. An applicant who is a lineal descendant of a DAR member or former member must complete his application back to the Patriot Ancestor's generation. An approved DAR application may also be used as proof of the Patriot Ancestor's service. Check the approved DAR paper to be sure acceptable proofs are cited. **Only copies of DAR papers requested from the Library Copy Services, DAR, 1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303, are acceptable for consideration.** Only those items verified by the DAR on Record Copy applications may be considered as proof. NSDAR applications stamped "**Duplicate**" are the same as a Record Copy.

PLEASE NOTE: State copies of the same paper are not acceptable.

If the relative used a DAR short form application paper, the current applicant must also submit a **Record Copy** of the DAR long form application that was referenced on the short form as its basis of proof.

13. SAR *may* accept **Record Copies** of papers from **Founders and Patriots, The Mayflower Society, and The Society of Colonial Wars.** Applications from these Societies will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine if they can be used as proof of lineage for SAR.

14. After completing the lineage, repeat the generation number of the patriot ancestor and burial place, if known, in the designated space shown on the form.

15. NO preliminary decision will be given on a line of descent, service, or evidentiary value of proposed evidence. When examined with all available evidence, such preliminary decision might prove to be incorrect, and the National Society cannot accept responsibility for such a decision.